

THE SCHOOL JOURNAL

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO.

VOLUME LIII, No. 24.
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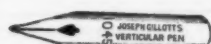
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A Weekly Journal of Education.

Vol. LIII.

For the Week Ending December 26.

No. 24

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'The Living Teacher.

By NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER,

State Supt. of Public Instruction, Pennsylvania.

Our text-books say that the names and attributes of the Deity should begin with a capital letter. Our treatises on education print Nature with a capital letter and humanity with a small h, as if rocks, leaves, bugs, forests, mountains, rivers, and the like were endowed with divine qualities and possessed of educative power far superior to that of a living teacher. If nature were in and of itself such an excellent teacher, the savage who is in daily contact with nature, would be better educated than the civilized man. Contact with nature, access to laboratories and libraries amounts to very little without the stimulus and guidance of the living teacher. From an educational point of view the savage in the forest or upon the prairie is no better off than the girl who sweeps the laboratory or the servant who wheels the books from the library to the professor's study. The time has come to emphasize the functions of the *living teacher*, to magnify the Socrates behind the desk rather than the methods or the materials by which he stimulates the pupil to earnest thought. The influence which Socrates exerted upon the young men of Athens, does not issue from a teacher who has reached the dead line.

From a dead tree you cannot propagate the species by any process of budding or grafting. You may engraft upon a school in charge of a teacher who has reached the dead line, the most skilful methods of school management and class recitation; it only intensifies the lifeless routine, the mechanical iteration and repetition, which Bishop Spalding declares to be the most radical fault of our systems of education. Is he not right? It takes life to beget life. It requires a growing mind to beget growth in other minds. Education results primarily from the play of mind upon mind, from the intercourse of soul with soul, from the action of personality upon personality, from the stimulating influence which the living teacher exerts upon his pupils, causing the intellect to think, the heart to expand, and the will to act in accordance with the laws of normal growth and development.

It is, therefore, of prime importance to keep the

teachers alive and growing while their years of service continue. The skilful superintendent treats his corps of teachers somewhat as the Delaware farmer treats his peach orchard. By every possible means the latter enriches the soil and strives to make the life of every tree so vigorous that it can withstand the attacks of the destructive disease known as "the yellows." The careful study of pedagogy and science and literature enriches the soil in which the teacher's mental life is rooted. An abiding interest in the growth and development of the individual pupil keeps him interested in his work while his years of service continue. As soon as a peach tree shows unmistakable signs of disease, it is removed, root and branch, lest the contagion destroy the whole orchard. When a teacher has reached the dead line, his removal is not only in the interest of the children but also for the good of the other teachers. The last time I visited the old farm, one of the trees under whose branches I had played in my boyhood, had lost its leaves and all other signs of life; but when the strong autumn wind blew, the noise of the branches reminded me of the pedagogue who is perpetually finding fault with the teachers in the lower grades, with the text-books recently adopted, with the changes in the curriculum of study, with the pupils which have been promoted to his room, and with the committee charged with the difficult duty of selecting the teachers. The teacher who is in the habit of finding fault with everybody and everything connected with the school system, has undoubtedly reached the dead line. His complaints are apt to make the other teachers dissatisfied and discontented; and when teachers are no longer happy in their work, the disease attacks the pupils and reaches their homes; and the public no longer gets an adequate return for the money expended upon the schools.

When a person is sick or in danger of a breakdown, the physician sends him where he may inhale the invigorating atmosphere of the mountain or where ocean breezes quicken the pulse of life, or where orange blossoms fill the air with fragrance. There are seats of learning whose stimulating atmosphere is for the soul what the tonic effects of the mountain air, the sea breeze, and the gulf coast are for the body. When Dr. Harper, of Chicago university, adopted the plan of giving his professors a vacation once in seven years for purposes of travel and study, he recognized the importance of keeping the teacher alive and growing so long as he is not ready to quit the school-room. From the elementary school to the college and the university the most important educational factor is the living, growing teacher.

Harrisburg, Pa.

Sloyd.

By GUSTAF LARSSON.*

As I am an advocate of manual training, you doubtless think of me as an enthusiastic specialist, who sees in manual training a remedy for all the failings of the schools, and that I have some particular methods and fixed means for your consideration with which to effect reform. Allow me to say from the outset, that my mission is not that of a specialist or that I have, or ever shall have, a fixed system for manual training schools, whereas in other departments of education, methods must be adapted to circumstances.



GUSTAF LARSSON,
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My work is simply an effort to provide means of furthering the highest interests of general education. It is the same work to which each one of you is devoted.

Manual training should not be introduced into schools because certain teachers take a fancy to it, or because persons having technical skill like to work in it. Our school courses are already overcrowded, the expense of carrying on the schools is already great. We should not be justified in introducing any subject unless it is an absolute necessity, unless a careful study of the growing child convinces us that his welfare demands it.

The chief value of the form of manual training which I present to you, is not that it will help our children to earn their living, to be better fitted for a trade, or to find out their professional bent,—these are good aims, and ends which will, and ought to be considered, but the real purpose of general education is not to fit for trades, it is not the business of the public schools. What is the aim of education? is the question that teachers and promoters of specialties should constantly ask themselves? Is it not to make life happy and healthy, to form good mental habits, to give power in active doing? That is my idea of its mission and I only share the feeling expressed by our best educators. A recent writer in the *Educational Review* says, "Without our knowing it, the social ideal of a full, free, happy, human life for every boy and girl, born or brought into our midst, has gained possession of our minds and hearts," and again Dr. C. Hanford Henderson in the *Popular Science Monthly*, "What we want is radiant boys, breathing the full breath of life and health, thinking clearly, feeling deeply, rich in the full riches of the human spirit, the riches that come from the expanding and unfolding of the human faculties." This is the spirit of the times, rather, it is the spirit of teaching. It is the same spirit that possessed Comenius, Pestalozzi, Froebel, the spirit that has possessed all true teachers. Let it possess us and guide us! Let it control whatever means we employ, whatever we carry into the school! The end will control the means used to secure it.

The end as we see it, demands a sound body, controlled by an intelligent mind, animated by a free, joyous spirit. We must consider then how to promote and make use of physical power. "We must recognize the fact that spontaneous interest is the steam which drives the engines of education" and we must make the spontaneous interests of childhood the basis of sustained effort. If such considerations could be foremost in the mind of every manual training teacher, if the natural interests and development of childhood should govern what he plans for children to do, there would be a revolution in most of our manual training schools. I should not expect all manual training teachers to use exactly the same methods or the same courses of work, but as the principles of education are universal, wherever they are practiced there will be a certain similarity of methods.

*An address delivered before the Connecticut State Teachers' Association, at New Haven, Oct. 16, 1896.

For instance, could a teacher who was alive to the spontaneous interests of boyhood, put a boy to work on abstract exercises, for which he can see no use? If the manual training teacher appreciates the importance of correct physical growth, will he allow such work, or the use of such tools, as retard or interfere with that growth, however fascinating the work may be? Let me take, for example, the much advocated, and much used fret saw and the knife work in thin wood. Both of these are commonly used in a sitting position, with constant repetition of the same movements, tending to injurious bodily effects. The argument that children are much interested in it is hardly sufficient, for it is not safe to argue that what fascinates a child is always desirable for him to use. When I was a boy we used to find it very fascinating to stand on our heads and see which could eat the most candy in that position, the benefits of which exercise might reasonably be questioned. Amusement is often confounded with interest. Only the other day I met a manual training teacher, who told me that he had taken a course in elementary manual training during the summer. He considered it excellent, on account of the "interesting (?) character" of the many things he had made, and the problems he had worked out, but he said that his muscles ached from the continuous one-sided, cramped movements required for the work. It is needless for me to say that such manual training should be condemned.

When a child is put to sawing, and made to continue it until he has "mastered sawing," then planing, "until he knows how to plane," etc., surely the many faculties of the worker, either mental or physical, have not been taken into account. We should ask ourselves, what is that boy thinking about, while he is sawing, planing, etc.? Has his life been touched at as many points as possible through the work he has in hand. The amount of work accomplished, the ability to saw and plane exactly, or to make a few joints correctly is not what we are after. The mind and heart of the boy must not be forgotten, while his hands are supplied with work.

Psychologists tell us that skill does not exist in the hand but in the brain. Let the work then appeal to the intelligence of the worker, let it require his full thought and attention but, above all, let it, as far as possible, appeal to his heart. It is not safe to leave the emotions out of account. Let what he makes be something if possible that is connected with the best interests of his daily life, so that while his hands are at work, his thoughts are likely to be clean and joyous and good. How great is the need of this wholesome use of their superfluous energy among the boys who fill the streets of our American cities and towns!

I have in mind a boy making a towel roller, for instance, for his home; while he is engaged in the mechanical process of planing out a correct cylinder, his mind is likely to travel to his home, and he is stimulated to better work by the thought of his mother's pleasure in receiving this useful object from him. Home and mother! safe channels these for a boy's thought. Manual training must not leave these things out of account. If you think that manual skill as such, will necessarily make our children better, consider the great skill and intelligence used by those who pick locks, and construct infernal machines. How is it with the inmates of prisons and reformatories? You can not deny that they often have great skill, but how have they obtained it? Probably by a continuous practice to obtain accuracy with tools, with no other motive than the attainment of skill. This is to me a very important point, believing as I do that habits and ideas which are formed during great muscular effort, are the most impressive and lasting. A worthy motive then for the worker should be the guide for every act and every accomplishment. Such motive is supplied in the production of useful objects for the worker himself, his home, or his friends. Such objects as will furnish the worker with the most pleasant and healthy mental associations are therefore always to be sought for in manual training. By this you will see that it would not be possible or rational to have a fixed set of models for

every school; the worker and his surroundings must always be kept in mind. As manual training comprises anything done by hand it is well for us to consider what material is best fitted for school purposes. We should choose such as will give the greatest variety of healthful, vigorous physical movements, and among all occupations tried, working in wood with a great variety of carpenter's tools, has been found best for the purpose. Wood is clean, and the workroom should be clean also and orderly, like a school and not like a shop.

The kind of woodwork in which I believe is what is called sloyd. Sloyd is not a set of models. It is not a prescribed course of exercises. It is not the use of certain tools. Sloyd is tool work, so arranged and employed as to stimulate and promote vigorous intelligent self-activity for a purpose which the boy recognizes as good. "The spontaneous exercise of the creative faculties for a useful and good end is a moral tonic. The mere acquisition of skill is not necessarily so." Thus it will be seen, that when a manual training teacher says that he has partly sloyd and partly some other systems, it is the same as to say, "Partly I provide for what is best for the child, and partly I do something else." Such work as this cannot be based on sound educational principles. Those also who use models arbitrarily, without appreciation of their significance, and call their work sloyd, help to increase the misunderstanding. It is no wonder that earnest investigators of systems of manual training are confused by the cries of "Lo here! and Lo there!" Let me advise such investigators to put a few searching questions before they pass judgment on any course of work:

These questions will show what the Sloyd standard is, and will help to determine when a given course of work may properly bear that name.

1. Are the models useful, serviceable objects which arouse lively interest in the pupils?

2. Are the exercises and tools arranged with reference to the worker's growth of power? Do they call for a gradual increase of effort step by step?

3. Does the first exercise with each tool give a correct, effective impression of its typical use?

4. Do the objects afford due variety of form, and are the proportions good?

5. Are curved outlines to which ordinary testing tools cannot be applied, conspicuous throughout the course?

6. Do the finished models represent in every respect the pupil's own work?

I hope that you will not infer from anything I have said that I do not value manual skill in teacher and in pupil. I have only tried to show that skill is incidental and not the primary consideration, that it is subservient to the highest interest of education, *i. e.*, noble manhood and womanhood. As a matter of fact, the incidental result of manual training based upon the principles which I have tried to set before you will be a higher degree of skill than is attainable by technical or artisan methods. Striking examples of this may now be found in reformatories where sloyd is now being used side by side with the trade school.

Of course the manual training teacher should have a considerable degree of manual skill and a thorough insight into the technical part of the subject, but a mechanic or draughtsman cannot safely be employed as a teacher on account of technical skill alone, and it must be remembered that long experience in using carpenter's tools and draughtsman's instruments does not necessarily fit one for this work.

Psychological insight and the true teacher's tact are of first importance, and if we can add to that a high degree of technical skill, we shall have an ideal manual training teacher. Such a combination, however, is rare, and of the two I should prefer the teacher to the mechanic for manual training every time. It is safer to have a person who is $\frac{3}{4}$ teacher and $\frac{1}{4}$ mechanic, than to have the case reversed.

It is my experience that about one year of special training in manual work will fit one who is a good teacher to conduct the work in grammar schools. For high school work, additional work and time would be necessary.



A MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

(Reprinted by request from THE SCHOOL JOURNAL of Jan. 4, 1896.

From a picture by M. Eckhardt.

An Agent's Report.

By ELLEN E. KENYON WARNER.

"The teachers in my city are in a very discouraged frame of mind," says the local representative of a set of educational papers. "The schools seem to be flourishing, but there is less and less interest in our journals."

Less and less interest, while in all other districts, the interest is increasing! It must be the agent's fault. He is allowing the agents of other journals to outdo him.

But no. Investigation shows that the agents of other school periodicals are making the same report from that city—"Less and less interest." And yet the schools "seem to be flourishing" their principals believing that they are the finest in the country. "The teachers * * * are in a very discouraged frame of mind." This condition goes hand in hand with the great satisfaction of principals and superintendents and with the fact that there is "less and less" interest in educational papers. Here is a state of things worth inquiring into.

During Mac Alister's regime in Philadelphia, interest in educational papers increased among the teachers in very noticeable measure.

In New York, recently, interest has risen high.

In Brooklyn, something like a decade since interest received a strong stimulus and remained high for several years.

In Birmingham, Alabama, interest has risen markedly under Superintendent Phillips.

Binghamton, New York, shows a similar phenomena under Supt. Halsey.

Brookline, Mass., reached a high mark some years ago, and has since maintained it.

The same is true of Minneapolis, Houston, and Austin (Tex.), Orange (N. J.), Warrensburg (Mo.) and other towns too numerous to mention.

We find on a study of these data that the evidence seems to suggest several principles significant in the beneficence of school administration.

1. A change in the course of study stimulates interest in educational journals.

2. A change in school administration tends to stimulate such interest.

3. The increased interest advances or declines according to the educational ideal back of the new course of study in the one case and according to the educational ideal held by the new superintendent in the other.

4. Reform movements initiated and sustained by the teachers themselves or by the citizens sometimes arise, inducing increased interest in school papers where the school administration has no ideal or fails to impress it.

5. The two ideals that distinguish themselves in this examination, the one encouraging, the other discouraging, interest in educational journals (all such literature is included in this rough comparison—not merely certain papers having certain ideals) may be defined as follows: (a) The ideal that rests upon organization; b) the ideal that rests upon evolution.

In the one case the plant is told how to grow; in the other it is fed and watered and fanned by favoring breezes. In the one case, there exists absence of belief in the power of the teachers to be inspired or to develop professional intelligence and practical enthusiasm under inspiration; in the other there exists a faith in the higher human nature, even as latent in the "rut" teacher, and in truth. In the one case, the school system is regarded as a thing of soul, having spontaneous life in all its members; in the other, it is regarded as a mechanism to be governed by the manipulation of an electric key-board.

"I believe in centralized power," said the superintendent of the city in which the teachers are now reported as deeply discouraged and losing interest in educational papers. Centralized power, as exercised in

that city, has introduced, one after another, the most approved systems of teaching the various main divisions of the course of study. It has provided a general program for every school and a special daily program for every class-room. It tells the teachers at every turn what to do and how and when to do it. There is no function left for the educational paper. The teachers can dispense with it and save their money. And yet they are deeply discouraged.

Letters.

Cruel Treatment of Deficient Pupils

RESULTS OF NEGLECT OF CHILD STUDY.

By JOHN DALZIEL.

Many instances of apparent stubbornness on the part of children have come under my notice, which upon a thorough investigation have been found to arise from some defect in the organs of sight or hearing, such as astigmatism or a deformity in the ear.

The head of a child may appear normal to many persons, indicating, in some cases, more than ordinary intelligence, while there exists such a condition that it is impossible for the child to understand some propositions, even when expressed in simple terms.

The appearance of the eyeball is not an indication of the power of seeing, in any individual, a fact attested to by oculists, and understood by many educators, but that there is still a great deal of ignorance of the laws governing mind development, which should be known to every person entrusted with child cultivation, is manifest from the treatment of children by both parents and teachers.

One of the most painful instances of the belief in the innate badness of some children came under my notice a few years ago in the city of Philadelphia. The mother's statement in this case was "that ever since he was a baby he had given her a great deal of trouble from a habit of knocking things over." As his eyes were perfect, and he could see the objects and play with them, his parents did not suspect there was any defect in his sight, and consequently he was punished for what appeared to be wilful mischief, and that which seemed still worse, trying to lie himself out of the punishment by saying he did not see the things there. This determined persistence in lying was the cause of all his afflictions; it was, however, accompanied by an aggravating habit of making grimaces at the person questioning him, a sure sign of natural depravity. As is frequently the case with children when they know they are being punished wrongfully, this boy resented the ill treatment by stoic endurance while under the rod, thereby gaining the additional stigma of being vicious and incorrigible.

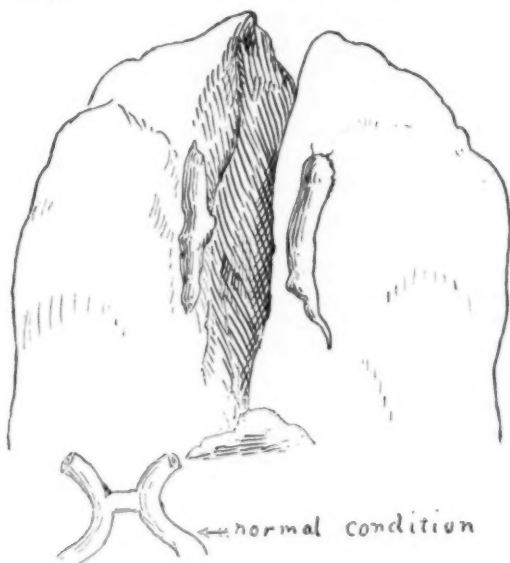
With such a character, gained at home, he was taken to an asylum for feeble-minded infants for the purpose of being disciplined.

At first, in the new surroundings he brightened up, but it was not long before the teacher had full evidence of his obstinacy. The importance of beginning right was fully understood, and the teacher taking an object in her hand and holding it before the boy's face, asked him, while he was to all appearances looking directly at it, "What is the name of the object in my hand?" The child twisted his face up and with a grimace asked,

"What object?" Here was confirmation of the bad character he brought with him. His head was held to face the object and a correct answer demanded; then followed the usual answer, "I cannot see anything;" for such obstinacy and prevarication there was but one remedy.

The child was desirous of pleasing his teacher and watched her closely so that he could occasionally name the object held up; this, however, only made his conduct at other times less tolerable. As a crucial test the teacher would hold a pin before the boy's face, and upon his statement that he could not see anything the point would be brought in contact with his nose, producing a cry and the statement that "it is a pin;" severe punishment followed this experiment.

Fortunately for the child he became sick. An oculist after examining him stated that there was a defect in his sight, but the exact nature of it was not easily determined.



FRONT OF CHILD'S BRAIN SHOWING DISCONNECTED OPTIC NERVE.
Drawn by John Dalziel, Plainfield, N. J., 1896.

After this the child was treated less severely, but all his endeavors to prove himself truthful were futile, and the poor little fellow pined away slowly and died, without any adequate cause in the shape of physical disease.

At the request of the oculist, the boy's brain was given to him for examination, he found that the nerves of sight were disconnected; which would render it impossible for the child to see any object in front of his face, but that he could see all objects on either side of him; and only by twisting his head and shutting an eye would he be able to see things in front of him.

The remorse felt by his former teachers can be readily understood, but what a picture it is! Who can appreciate the acute mental suffering of the infant when punished by its mother for untruths it did not tell, think of the effect upon the mind of a child deprived of food, kept in confinement, and flogged for failing to comply with requirements it had no means of comprehending.

We are apt to think that children do not know what mental agony is, but we can, if we will, call to mind the times when we could not weep, and yet we suffered a torturing pain in our throat, and a distress of mind, which would be unendurable now if we were subjected to the same insults which produced the condition in earlier years.

While on this subject I will mention a case which has been of great value to me in the study of psychology. At nine years of age I was placed at a boarding school: it was the good old times then, Solomon's advice was diligently heeded. One of the scholars, a boy of the dull order, and as is not unfrequently the case, strong and stout, offering a good broad back as a temptation to the irate teacher, and having the misfortune of being named Birchenough, was subjected to harsh treatment by the assistant teacher. Birchy, as we called him, was kind hearted and he often told me his plans for pleasing the teacher and escaping, if possible, his daily thrashing. I knew the boy was good in his intentions, and he spoke only the truth, when he said, "When I do my best to oblige him and be perfect in my recitations he gets most angry with me." This was actually the case I have seen the teacher flog him unmercifully without any cause that the boys could observe; and every blow stung my brain as if it had been struck. Poor Birchy lost heart and tried to commit suicide by hanging himself; he was found in time to save his life and, as punishment, he was kept in solitary confinement for several days and fed upon bread and water. The first day he returned to the school room the teacher became angry at him for misspelling a word, and commenced to flog him. I jumped up and denounced him as a coward and said I would go and tell the principal. I did so, and the teacher, Charlie Walker, was discharged, to the great relief of sixty boys. The principal was a good man and did not know how the teacher terrorized the boys in his absence.

Flogging the body is no longer tolerated, but is it any better to use a bright pupil, with no higher qualification than a fine memory, as a goad to urge on other pupils to efforts, for which their mental make up, at the time, utterly unfit them? The teacher sees nothing of the mental strain, or heartache from the disappointment caused by failure to reach the desired standard, and unfortunately, few parents comprehend the condition of affairs either. The pupils most injured are those whose minds and spirits are of the finest quality and who hide their suffering. When they fail in health and the doctor is consulted they listen to his advice and take his prescriptions, or do as I did, pour the medicine out of the window at the times ordered to "shake the bottle before taking," and go on with their studies until they collapse.

The old-fashioned flogging, done in moderation, was a squaring of accounts which did less injury to a smaller number. If we are to obtain the best results from our arduous endeavors to improve the scholar, and the status of the teacher, it must be done by taking higher ground with the pupil. It is far better to fail in an occasional case of low moral conception on the part of a pupil, whom we can treat separately if needs be, than to assume the attitude towards a class, that says they are not to be trusted unless they are watched. The power to suffer begins at birth, the desire to please follows very quickly after, and if these two faculties are rightly understood and nurtured they give the foundation to build the noblest characters upon.

Plainfield, N. J.

Testing Eyes.

By WM. H. HUSE.

A year ago I made my first test of the eyesight of my pupils. The result would have been surprising if I had not previously read of similar tests. Quite a number with very defective sight were advised to consult an oculist and several did so. I have just finished my second test. This was of more value than the first, as it showed if any change had taken place in the vision of those tested last year.

This time I found that sixty-five per cent. had good eyesight. This includes all from fair to perfect. Thirty-five per cent. had poor vision. Fifty-five per cent. had substantially the same degree of vision as last year, nineteen had poorer sight, while twenty-six per cent. had better. These are the bare figures. The benefit resulting from such annual tests cannot be stated in that way.

One boy, an orphan, was found last year with poor vision. He had been wearing glasses and doctoring his eyes by order of an oculist, but had stopped doing both some time before. He was urgently advised to attend to his eyes at once. He did so and can now see normally without spectacles. Another boy was found with exceedingly poor sight. Neither he nor his parents were aware of it. The oculist who fitted him told him it would be necessary to wear glasses only through his school life. To-day with the glasses his vision is normal; without them it is much better than last year. These are doubtless exceptional cases, but all who were properly fitted with spectacles can do better work than formerly and are preventing more serious trouble.

A few amusing incidents occurred. This year a traveling optician who had treated one of the pupils called on me and asked if I would kindly mention his name to those who needed glasses. I felt constrained to refuse. He then asked if I would give him the names of those who needed them. That I also refused and showed him the door.

Only once have I interfered in the purchase of glasses. A boy went to a jeweler and obtained a pair that made his sight worse than it was before. By my advice he took them back and changed them. The second pair were but little better. One lens fitted; the other did not. I then went with him and made the jeweler take back the glasses and refund the money. Upon my advice he then went to one more competent. In the future these tests are to be a part of my regular school work.

Manchester, N. H.

Pure Phonics.

For the purpose of obtaining a clearer articulation and more exact pronunciation among our youth, and eventually among people generally, I believe nothing will be more efficient than the accustoming our children while in the kindergarten to exercises in pure phonics—that is, training them to recognize the elementary sounds which make up the English language, and causing them to place the organs of speech in the proper positions to produce those sounds exactly. Especially is such training needed with the young children of foreigners, who possess no inherited tendency to place their organs of speech in the right positions to produce many of the English sounds.

Training for good English speech should be begun in the kindergarten. I have therefore taken the liberty of addressing the following letter to Miss Jenny B. Merrill, lately appointed supervisor of the New York public kindergartens; since it is to her we must look for the development of instructors to teach pure phonics to the little ones.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

New York City.

"The writer feels impelled to add a word to the general expressions of gratification uttered upon your appointment as supervisor of public kindergartens in New York city. She had the pleasure of listening last winter to your essay on kindergarten work, spoken before the Society for the Improvement of the Public Schools. That address showed your long identification with kindergarten work, and consequent fitness for the office of supervisor. Therefore she says, with so many others, 'I am glad.'"

"After hearing your address I took the liberty of writing to you upon the subject of developing a knowledge of pure phonics in children of from four to seven or more years of age, to a limited degree according to their linguistic acquirements; this to be done previous to giving them any instruction in letters. May I hope that the suggestions then made, with the further arguments presented in the printed papers accompanying that communication, have been already fully considered by you, and that your plan of supervision embraces thorough training of your teachers in pure phonics. This is necessary in order that they shall be able, not only to discriminate all elementary sounds, but to produce them so clearly in speech that children will easily apprehend and imitate them. So far as I know (except in the Workingman's school), systematic effort has not hitherto been made in the direction of leading children to associate the exact hearing of an elementary sound with its distinct utterance before teaching them letters, or of developing the organs of speech by having the children place the lips, tongue, teeth, and lingual muscles in special positions so as to produce exactly the required sounds; yet such training for a few minutes each day would result in greatly improved articulation. It would enable the children to more readily grasp the meaning of little words; and phonic analysis should be limited to such words—that is, to words the meaning of which our little ones fully understand. Phonic drill is moreover the most efficient means of correcting wrong pronunciation; as 'git' for get, 'shet' for shut, 'kin' for can, etc. This analysis continued in the primary and higher departments of schools would, by cultivating exact hearing, aid greatly in securing clear and correct pronunciation by pupils and teachers, and ultimately a more distinct and forceful delivery by lecturers and public speakers generally.

"For is it not true that slurred and indistinct pronunciation is too generally heard both in speaking and reading, and this even among educated people? Is not the fault a grievous one, to correct which no pains should be spared? And is it not while speech is being learned that good habits of speech should be learned, and that an apprehension of what speech is and what are its component elements should be plainly impressed upon the intellects of our youth?"

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

Pedagogical Books.

"Child Observations."

FIRST SERIES: *Imitation and Allied Activities*. Made by the students and published under the auspices of the Graduate Association of the State Normal School, at Worcester, Mass. Edited by Miss Ellen M. Haskell. With an introduction by E. H. Russell.—Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.50.

This is the title of a book of 267 pages, containing observations made by students of the Worcester, Mass., normal school and published under the auspices of the Graduates' Association. It has an interesting introduction by Prin. E. H. Russell, of the Worcester, Mass., normal school, who for several years has been accumulating a vast number of observations made by his students, and concerning this collection much curiosity has been aroused.

The remarks of Prof. Russell amount to a plea for Child Study, as might have been expected. He expresses his thought by saying, "We need to know much more of *what* there is in children before we are ready to attack the questions *how much* there is and *how it came there*." This is stating in a nutshell the reason for child study; and a general agreement with this argument is what gives force to the movement that is so apparent.

An examination of the many incidents that have been carefully noted shows that imitation is the cause of many of the acquirements and doings of children; and when we see how older people follow fashions in clothing, in conduct, and in religion, even we may conclude that it is a force that never loses its power. The published observations on children aged from one to three years, number 191. Many of these would please parents to read, for example that of a boy two years and eight months old who took a slate under his arm and went from room to room crying, "Tunday Teledram" meaning Sunday Telegram; or that of the boy who found the stockings off the doll's feet and brought her to the fire to warm her, saying in a pitiful tone, "No stockings on;" or that of the girl who walking the street bows and says to friends, "How do?" just as her mother does; or that of the girl who had seen her aunt cut her corns and walk lame afterwards, walked limpingly and said, "Oh, my corn!" or that of a boy who had heard "Charge" said to a dog, and came home and said it to the cat.

There are eleven groups of observations, the last is of children between the ages of twelve and sixteen; in this imitation is as rife as in the first; but habits have been fixed in numerous ways; the field for imitation is so large, however, that this deeply implanted habit of the race is in operation in these who are considerably trained in thought and will be until they are laid away in their tombs. The stories here are not so interesting as those concerning the younger children in group; the imitation is of things read in books sometimes. One is of some girls who fastened their sleds together and called them a railroad, the first acting as an engineer, the last as a brakeman. There is a great deal of "make believe" which is imitation, of course. This "making believe" has been utilized in the school-room by teachers to good advantage, for amusement purposes. It is at the bottom of acting in a theater; an actor makes believe he is a king, etc.

There are no small number of people who doubt whether any practical good will come out of these labored

observations beyond the sympathy they beget in us for childhood. This is what Prof. Russell declares to be the main object of the volume, and it must be admitted that sympathy is the foundation of the pedagogic art. That there is a solid reason for implanting imitation in us will readily be admitted; it is to bestow on this generation the accumulation of preceding generations; that it plays a most important part in school life we must all admit. To state these two facts as has just been done is hardly enough for the candidate for teaching or for one who has been years in the field. He should come at these truths by personal observation; and we think among the work set before pupils in a normal school might be such a requirement as this: Give twenty-five examples of imitation in children of your own observance with name and age of child.

Whether those who make such observations will teach more productively is a question that is being much debated. Prof. Russell ought to be one of the best authorities, for the Worcester normal school has been noted for ten years for requiring its students to make observations. We do not understand him to answer the question affirmatively; beyond the attainment of sympathy with the child he does not urge the making of observations. It is probable that those earnest advocates of child study are to be greatly disappointed who had cherished the idea that a short cut to educational results would be disclosed by the study of children's ways.

What is wanted greatly is a study of children who are in the kindergarten and primary school. It would be of incalculable benefit if some man rightly endowed would give his observations concerning the teaching of drawing, for example, extended over a period of several years; he should not set out to prove or disprove some theory; we have had enough of that. The aim should be to allow the spontaneous activity of the child to act in drawing; to be willing to shift the procedure when it was apparent the activity was suspended; how to test success wholly by results as one would measure up the goods woven by a workman during a day.

Education has a fixed meaning as we know when we see the college machinery at work; it is also pretty plainly discerned in the high school, but not so clearly in the elementary schools and the kindergarten. The great need is of observations that disclose the real ways in which the child comes to understand language, number, the qualities of things, etc. We are too apt to say, "He shall understand it this way." Yet this is not to underrate the indefatigableness of Prof. Russell in the field he has chosen; the sincerity of his work has been apparent to the many who have been aware of what has been going on in the Worcester normal school. He has felt the lack of real observation and has supplied it. He has felt in common with thousands of thinking men and women that the teacher has set out to teach a being of which he absolutely knew nothing except that it did not know a certain fact, as that seven nines sum up sixty-three; like the hatter that challenges the man with a shabby head-piece to buy. As has just been said, the person who prepares to teach should have made many observations on his own account similar to those recorded in this volume; that this volume will aid to bring this about cannot be doubted, though it may not assist a single teacher to obtain the results that are looked for as a consequence of his intercourse with his pupils. (D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.)

Prof. Paulsen on Dr. Seeley's Book : "German Common School System."

It is not without interest to us to know how our school system appears in the eyes of an intelligent foreigner. The author of this book, a professor in the State Normal school at Trenton, N.J., has, through repeated and long-continued residence in Germany, acquired a thorough knowledge of our school system and its literature. He gives in his book a picture of the Prussian common school, both internal and external, with the purpose of encouraging the adoption of such practices and appropriating such lessons as are suitable to American conditions.

There are three of these of supreme importance: 1. Trained teachers; 2. Fixed positions of school officers and teachers; 3. Thoroughly carried out compulsory education. He demands for the American school system: 1. Longer periods of appointment for teachers and school officials and with this greater stability in school work; 2. The absolute divorce of all school interests from politics. No great progress can be made until these reforms are carried out, and there is great danger of retrogression unless the present abuses are abated. With fixed positions teachers will prepare themselves better. He demands also the establishment of compulsory education for the entire year, and not simply for a part of the year, as is the general custom in the United States.

The author's opinion of the German common school teacher is most favorable. The common belief in America that the discipline of the German school is hard is most energetically disputed. On the contrary he finds that the ruling spirit on the part of the teachers is a humane sympathy and a hearty interest in the mental and moral culture of the youth. The discipline is indeed strict and firm, but that does not indicate lack of mutual affection between pupil and teacher; on the contrary he declares repeatedly that in general the pupils love and honor their teachers. Respect for law, which is so apparent in Germany, he thinks is closely connected with the lessons inculcated in the school; his countrymen might well learn from this also.

With reference to methods of teaching, comparison is made between the method of question and answer depending upon free use of text-book as practiced in America, and the German method. His criticism of the German method is that the teacher stands as a living encyclopedia before the pupil, giving the material without text-book, explaining and reviewing until there is but little left for the pupil to do for himself. With the advantages of this method which secures lively attention and clear understanding on the part of the pupil there are also serious disadvantages. The child learns too little to help himself, and depends too much on the teacher. As a result when he leaves school in most cases his intellectual culture ceases. He is too little accustomed to help himself out of books.

This fact cannot be denied (with German children), even if it does not depend alone or essentially upon the method of teaching. I think that it will be one of the most important questions of the future for us, by the presentation of suitable means, to provide that with our rising generation the good beginning shall not stop without further progress. Germany will some time have people's libraries and people's high schools similar to those of our Northern neighbors.

I remark once more that the author urges the introduction of religious instruction into the American schools. Religious instruction is left to the church, in fact, to the Sunday-school, and even the use of the Bible is quite generally forbidden in the schools. Prof. Seeley is of the opinion that sacred history and literature is a necessary part of a common school education while confessional instruction must be left to the church and the family. In this also I agree with him fully, and it will be the aim towards which we also must strive in religious instruction.

University of Berlin.

DR. FREDERICK PAULSEN,

(In the *Deutsche Literaturzeitung*.)

An index to the fifty-third volume of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL, ending with the present number, will be sent out with next week's issue.

The School Journal.

NEW YORK & CHICAGO.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 26, 1896.

A Merry Christmas.

Child study may be of extreme value, but is it likely to be? There are certain forces in a child that, if set in operation, and rightly continued in operation, result in a condition we term education. Pestalozzi studied his young son carefully before he began his practical effort for the education of the orphans in which he won world wide fame; and it is plain he studied thoughtfully the nature of those orphans as anyone who reads his biography will see. His system was the result of that study; it is practically the system employed to-day. Froebel, too, studied children; the kindergarten is the result. Let those who pursue child study aim at something; for instance, let a teacher of drawing study the mode by which children learn to draw; he will need to give several years to this. Then he can tell us things he has learned that will be of value to all teachers of drawing.

The gravest danger of the present wide-spread interest in "scientific" child-study is that teachers are apt to regard the school as a laboratory for enriching their knowledge of children and of child nature, instead of attending to the enrichment of the minds of their pupils. It is all very well to say that the child cannot be well taught until his mental, moral, and physical make-up is well understood. But this trying to get better acquainted must not consume too much time. Firstly, it ought to be presupposed that a person who is appointed as teacher is already acquainted with the characteristics of child-nature in a general way and is capable of readily diagnosing individualities of children, just as a licensed physician is supposed to be able to give a diagnosis of the physical constitution. Secondly, every teacher ought to have a plan of incidentally gathering the additional observations necessary to form a correct judgment of the peculiarities noticeable in some pupils. After school hours these incidentally collected data may be entered in a special book kept for purposes of gradually obtaining a record of the educational progress and peculiar needs of the various pupils. Child study must not be made an end in itself, so far as the teacher is concerned. It is only one means of learning how to best educate a child. How can I best promote the educational growth of the children? This is the question. The scientists who wish to work out a new psychology of childhood—grand as their object is—must not be permitted to substitute their object for that for which the schools are founded and maintained—the education of American citizens.

Speaking of mistaken views in child-study, it may be well to repeat a suggestion made in THE SCHOOL JOURNAL three years ago. The most valuable record a teacher can collect is a diary in which he enters day by day what he has taught, the methods employed, difficulties that came up, cases of discipline, how the "dull" boy's interest was aroused, bright answers. The most important points of this nature might be noted down at the end of every recitation, for the memory cannot al-

ways be relied upon; the others are added after school. A few significant words will do. At the end of each week (or month) the most valuable notes are transferred to a large book which might be labeled, "My Experiences in Teaching." By this means the teacher will constantly have a vivid picture of his successes and failures and of the reasons responsible for them. He will have occasion in his daily preparation to consult his observations of individual pupils and the nature of children in general, to revive his experiences regarding the relative value of methods and the ways and means best suited to his particular class; how this or that "dry" study was enlivened; how those who had appeared incorrigible were won; how the little ones were kept busy and interested while the older pupils recited—these and many other helpful pointers he will find whenever he turns to the pages of "Experiences." A record of this kind will aid him also to avoid the repetition of mistakes, to prevent a good work that was once well begun from being forgotten and left unfinished; it will stimulate to greater and more intelligent effort and strengthen his love of his calling.

Among the new features planned for the fifty-fourth volume of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL, which begins next week, is a department of digests of all the most important educational articles appearing in other journals and magazines. The periodical literature of pedagogy has increased so enormously that it is simply impossible for educators to find time to read all the valuable contributions intended especially for them, nor can they afford to subscribe for a large number of papers. There is need of a "pedagogical digest" after the plan of the *Literary Digest*, *Public Opinion*, *Review of Reviews*, and other publications which aim to give condensed reports of articles of interest to general readers. This want THE SCHOOL JOURNAL will supply by devoting one number each month to brief reviews of specially interesting educational articles appearing in the various periodical publications coming to our editorial notice.

One paper says it has become a "fad" to collect the pedagogical creeds of educational thinkers. Why did it not say that the editor of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL last May conceived the idea to ask men and women eminent in the profession of teaching and those outside of it who have made a philosophical study of the great needs of society, to write out a brief but comprehensive statement of those fundamental conceptions upon whose application they base their hopes for sound educational progress. This is the simple truth. The editor believed that if the leaders could come to an understanding as to what each of them really aimed to achieve the promise for progress along rational lines of thought would become brighter. After consulting with Dr. Harris, Col. Parker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Dr. G. Stanley Hall, Supt. Gilbert, Dr. Shaw, and others about the value of the series from philosophic and practical standpoints, he decided to publish the series under the title "My Pedagogic Creed" and secured twenty-five promises of contributions, many of them from men and women of international fame who were glad of the opportunity to put their educational aims plainly before the representative body of professional educators who form the constituency of this journal.

The report of discussions of the subject of chemistry teaching by Prof. Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins, and others, before the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland at the recent meeting in Philadelphia, will appear in THE SCHOOL JOURNAL for January 9.

Topics of the Times.

The Vote for President.

The official returns of the election show that McKinley received 7,123,234 votes, Bryan 6,499,365, Palmer 125,037, Levering 125,181, Matchett 16,006, and Bentley 9,665. McKinley's plurality is 623,869 and his majority over all 347,666. Bryan secures one of Kentucky's thirteen electors. As matters now stand McKinley's electoral vote is 276 and Bryan's 171.

Matters for Congress to Decide.

The last session of the Fifty-fourth Congress was opened December 7 and will close March 4. Among the principal measures pending in the house are bills to restrict immigration, to bridge the Detroit river at Detroit, providing for the election of senators by the people, to prevent the desecration of the naval flag, to prevent the extermination of the fur-bearing seals of Alaska, and to reduce the cases in which the penalty of death may be inflicted. In the senate bills are pending appropriating \$100,000,000 for coast defense, reasserting the Monroe doctrine, providing for a thorough revision of the navigation laws, to promote the establishment of a cable to Hawaii, to refund the Pacific Railroad debt, and to construct the Nicaragua canal. Several resolutions in regard to Cuba have been introduced. It is generally conceded that there is no hope of passing the Dingley bill, which imposes a duty on raw wool equivalent to sixty per cent. of the duties of the McKinley act, and a similar duty on all manufactures of wool; also a duty of sixty per cent. on lumber and its manufactures, and a horizontal advance of fifteen per cent. upon the Wilson law in all its sections except wool and lumber, as indicated above, and on sugar.

Organized Labor Successes.

The sixteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor met December 14 at Cincinnati and was addressed by President Samuel Gompers. He referred to the progress that had been made by the organization. At present there is a bill before Congress making the eight-hour law apply to all governmental work; one for a non-partisan commission; another that officers of labor organizations while in the performance of their duties shall not be subject to injunction proceedings; a fourth that prison-made goods shall be so branded and not be permitted to be sent to any other state. When Utah was made a state the eight-hour law was applied to the mining, smelting, and several other industries. The law was violated and the supreme court of the state declared it constitutional. The case has now been carried to the U. S. supreme court.

A New Method of Rapid Transit.

A patent for a new method of rapid transit was recently secured in the United States by Eugene Laugen, of Cologne, Germany. This system consists of suspended cars, running on one rail, and may be built single or double track. In case of the former one side of the supporting frame is constructed on a curve, so as to bring the suspended car within the supporting base. The passengers face the center of the car or the outside. Two short roads of this system are in operation, one in Ireland, and one in France. The Irish railway connects two towns ten miles apart and this distance with steam power is frequently covered in five minutes, or at a speed of one hundred and twenty miles an hour. A speed of one hundred and fifty miles an hour has been attained. On the new electric road now building near Brussels, it is claimed, the cars will be run at the rate of two hundred and fifty to three hundred miles an hour. Think of being whirled from New York to San Francisco in less than a day!

Our New Coast Defender.

The new coast defence monitor *Puritan* was lately placed in commission at the Brooklyn navy yard. The general plan is that of John Ericsson, the great inventor, but it has been changed to accord with improvements in naval architecture. The ship was begun in 1864 and the building of it has dragged along all these

years by reason of lack of appropriations and other causes. In spite of the fact that it was three times pronounced a failure it is one of the most powerful warships afloat. Her length is 290 feet, breadth, 60 feet, and draught, 18 feet. The displacement is 6,060 tons and the horse power, 3,700. She has a twin screw propeller. Her coal capacity is 410 tons. She has two steel barbette turrets. Her armor is 14 inches thick on her water line, belt, and barbettes. Her protection deck, which is flat, is two inches in thickness. Her main battery consists of four 12-inch guns, in two turrets, and her secondary battery comprises six 4 inch rapid-fire guns, six 6-pounder Hotchkiss rapid-fire guns, and two 1-pounder Hotchkiss guns. Her comparative speed will be twelve and a half knots.

The Success of Antitoxin.

A report of the results of antitoxin in 6,000 cases from the practice of 613 American and Canadian physicians has been made, and more than 600 of these physicians declare themselves in favor of the remedy. While antitoxin always cures diphtheria in animals, it is not so certain to cure human beings, because when a patient has diphtheria germs there may be also other bacilli in the system. These micro-organisms are stirred into dangerous activity by the presence of the diphtheria bacilli, and are a leading element of uncertainty in the antitoxin treatment. In cases of undoubted diphtheria the antitoxin was injected at the first visit, and of the 106 cases so treated there were no deaths; of those injected on the second day, 366 cases, 5 deaths; of those treated on the third day, 600 cases, 18 deaths. In the country at large the mortality was only 4.8 per cent. in 4,120 cases injected during the first three days.

British Postal Savings and Life Insurance.

Each of the 12,000 local post-offices of Great Britain is also a life insurance office and an office for the sale of annuities. Savings of one shilling to £50 a year may be made, on which an interest of 2½ per cent. is paid. When the account exceeds £200, no more deposits can be made, but the depositor can reduce his account by buying consols through the post-office. Life insurance may be obtained in amounts from £5 to £100, payable at death or after a term of years. The best part of the system is that the payments are certain; the factor of broken banks is entirely done away with.

From the Source to the Mouth of the Niger.

An expedition finished its journey from the upper waters of the Niger river to its mouth in the middle of last October, just 105 years after Mungo Park visited the famous stream. For many years the most fantastic theories were entertained about the Niger. Some geographers said it flowed into Lake Tchad (tchād); others that it lost itself in the desert sands. A German geographer, Reichard (ri' kård) solved the riddle by declaring that the numerous little streams that flow into the Gulf of Benin are mouths of the Niger. This was found to be true; we now know that the Niger delta is the largest in Africa. In recent years the French have floated down the Upper Niger and planted their flag in the forbidden city of Timbuctu, and this is the point from which one of the parties has now descended the river to the sea.

A Wonderful Counting Machine.

The machines used for counting and tying up United States postal cards are capable of counting 500,000 cards in ten hours and putting them in bundles of twenty-five each. The paper is pulled off a drum by two long "fingers" which come up from below, and another finger dips in a vat of mucilage and applies itself to the wrapping-paper in exactly the right spot. Other parts of the machine twine the paper around the pack of cards, then a "thumb" presses over the spot where the mucilage is and the package is thrown upon a carrying-belt ready for delivery.

The Smallest Republic in the World.

The smallest of the republics in the world in population is Tavolara (tä-vö-lä'ä), which is an island located about fifteen miles northeast of Sardinia. Tavolara is five miles long and about half a mile wide, and contains a population of fifty-five men, women, and children. Every six years the grown people of the republic, men and women together, go to the polls and elect a president and congress of six members. The island formerly belonged to Sardinia but afterward became a separate kingdom. The republican government was formed in 1886 and was recognized by Italy in 1887. The inhabitants are fishermen.

Honor to One "to Whom Honor is Due."

JERSEY CITY.—The board of education showed its appreciation of the services of Superintendent Henry M. Snyder, by holding exercises in his honor Thursday evening, Dec. 17.

The large assembly hall of Public school No. 15, was filled with teachers and citizens. Among the prominent people who occupied the platform were C. J. Baxter, state superintendent; J. M. Green, principal state normal school; Supt. B. C. Gregory, of Trenton; Supt. C. B. Gilbert, of Newark; Supt. Henry M. Maxon, of Plainfield; Supt. George C. Ryan, of New Brunswick; Supt. Charles M. Davis, of Bayonne; Supt. W. H. Maxwell, of Brooklyn; Edward G. Ward, assistant superintendent Brooklyn schools; and Addison B. Poland, assistant superintendent New York schools.

The introductory address was delivered by Dr. Ulamor Allen, president of the board who briefly enumerated the improvements which had been made during Supt. Snyder's administration. The entire course of study has been changed and a new curriculum was adopted in May, 1895. The reorganization of the training school is one of Mr. Snyder's greatest achievements; the organization of a pedagogical society among the teachers is another important event.

Examinations as a test for promotions have been abolished, and pupils are now advanced on their term record. The Central Evening school is also due to a suggestion of the superintendent. During his term of office of three years schools Nos. 23, 24, and three new buildings had been completed, 9, 15, and 25, and two, Nos. 10 and 13, had been enlarged.

President Allen paid a tribute to Mr. Snyder's rare executive ability.

Ex-Mayor Collins referred to the competent superintendents who had served the city, and said that while Mr. Snyder was in every way a worthy successor, he had been even more progressive in some respects.

The principals and teachers were represented by Mr. George H. Linsey, who has been principal of school No. 1, for nearly fifty years. Mr. Linsey said his memory took him back to the school house of 1847, with its wood stoves, fed by teachers and pupils. He then briefly traced the progress of the schools down to the present time. The success of the schools is largely due, he said, to the efforts of the faithful, earnest men who have served as superintendents, Messrs. Dickinson, Barton, Edson, Poland, and Snyder. For the latter he bespoke the measure of success which he deserves.

In a brief address Mayor Wanser referred to the marked progress made in school facilities during his term of office, and praised the superintendent for his ability and activity.

The Rev. Henry C. Cronin, who spoke for the clergymen said in part:

"In Superintendent Snyder we have a man of character and ability along these lines; one whose work in our city has contributed greatly toward lifting our schools up to the high plane on which they stand to-day; a man who knows how to plan his work and work his plans; a man of progressive ideas, always seeking the best, and persistent in following the good. Our recent new school buildings, in their beauty and fitness and in the perfection of their equipments, are monuments to the value of his services, while the best teachers in our schools owe much of their efficiency to his training and example.

"We rejoice that the board of education, by this gathering, does honor to one whom honor is due, and the ministers of the city, joining in this effort, wish that Mr. Snyder may enjoy many years of increasing usefulness as superintendent of the public schools of Jersey City."

Addresses were also made by State Supt. Baxter, Dr. J. M. Green, Supts. Maxwell and Poland, and Director Beach.

Supt. Snyder in his response, said that much credit for the advancement of the schools was due to the directors of the board, the principals and assistants. He had, at short intervals, conferred with the principals, and they thoroughly discussed the changes and the many valuable suggestions made by his staff of assistants. He had also found the directors ready for consultations, and to them was due much credit for the gain made.

Institute Notes from Pennsylvania.

Thanksgiving week seems to be a favorite time for institutes, with the Pennsylvania superintendents.

The York Co. Institute was one of unusual interest. There are four hundred and ninety one teachers in this county—ninety-one being in the city of York. Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, state superintendent of public instruction, gave the opening address. The instructors were Dr. Eli F. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind., who gave talks upon "Physical Culture and School Sanitation," "Hygiene and Practical Morals," "Chief Difficulties in Teaching a School of Several Grades," and "Great Routes of Commerce." Prof. Heber Holbrook, formerly of the normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, but now of Clarion, Pa., gave interesting lectures on "Nature of the Mind," "What the Teacher is to do with the Mind," "Query Period," and "History."

Dr. S. C. Schmucker, of West Chester, Pa., lectured on "Needless Fears" (concerning animals), "The Birds," and "Insect Changes."

Miss Belle Thomas, the well known primary teacher from Chicago, gave talks upon "Learning to Read," "Poor Reading of our Adult Pupils—Cause—Cure," "Occupation When Not Reciting." Among the other instructors were E. O. Lyte and Miss Carry E. Myers, of Millersville, Pa., G. M. D. Eckels, Shippensburg, Pa., E. T. Jeffers, of York, and R. M. McNeal, superintendent Dauphin Co.

The citizens of York took an unusual interest in the institute, often there were from a thousand to thirteen hundred people in the Opera House listening intently to the exercises. Supt. D. H. Gardner may well congratulate himself upon the success of this the forty-second annual institute of York Co.

The Lebanon Co. Institute with an attendance of over three hundred got into full swing; everything moved along promptly and smoothly. The opening exercises were held in the court house, then the institute was divided into sections, thus enabling teachers to get any special instruction they may wish or need. Dr. Mowry, the popular president of the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, was on the program for the entire week. As an old friend of his remarked, "Mowry is always good." Dr. C. C. Rounds, of Boston, lectured each day. Dr. N. C. Schaeffer and Deputy Supt. Houk (the funny man—who always makes you laugh) were on for lectures. Miss McMullen, who has recently introduced the Pollard Synthetic System of Reading into the Lebanon city schools, was on for "Primary Reading." Among the new and especially interesting features were the talks and instruction of Mrs. Blanche E. Little on the "Study of Drawing." She sets forth clearly and strongly the reasons why drawing should be a part of every school course. Her work was planned with special reference to the primary teachers of Lebanon, who are to put the work into their schools at once.

Adams county has one hundred and ninety teachers and every one was in attendance at the institute. Supt. Thomas had a well arranged program. Dr. Schaeffer and Supt. Houk lectured here. Miss Belle Thomas gave talks upon primary work, and an especially interesting one upon "Story telling." Prof. Van Orm, of the Gettysburg college, gave an able discussion of the dull pupil. This was exceedingly interesting and the teachers got some good ideas.

Gettysburg is a particularly interesting place, for any one from a distance, to attend an institute. Several iron and steel observatories seventy five feet high have been erected at different points on the battle ground, and from them the entire field can be seen, the eye can sweep over a landscape of magnificent scope and grandeur. To one alive to the beauties of nature, these views alone are sufficient to stir the mind and heart with sublime and inspiring thoughts. What then must be the feelings of those who can in imagination roll back the veil of thirty-two years, and standing on these towers catch the inspiration of the past, and in the march of mind rehearse the evolutions of that great battle whose stage is so grandly spread before them. We were told that from every portion of our country come yearly thousands of people to visit this sacred field. Here veterans who wore the blue and the gray often mingle, not as they once did, in deadly combat, but sadly remembering the past, they clasp hands in doing honor to the valiant and heroic dead who fell here. Gettysburg has therefore become, and is the "Mecca" of American reconciliation.

The New Jersey State Normal School.

By L. SEELEY.

The state of New Jersey has but one normal school, which is located at Trenton. This school was organized in 1855, with forty-three students. At the same time the model school was established as a school for practice with 125 children. The normal school now numbers 650 students and the model school 600. Thus from the first the importance of opportunity for practice work for normal students was recognized, a principle which is now universally accepted, but which was not generally considered a necessary attachment of a normal school at the time this school was established, forty years ago. Prof. Stoy's aphorism, "Ein pedagogisches Seminar ohne Uebungsschule ist ein Unding" (a pedagogical seminary without a practice school is a chimera), has now come to be an accepted fact, and no normal schools are established without a practice school attached.

But the Trenton model school is more than a practice school. It is what its name indicates, a model for the elementary and secondary schools of the state. Probably in no state in the Union is there a school which, in course of study, in methods of instruction, and in the plan and purpose of its work, so directly influences the schools within the state, as does the model school at Trenton. Even the architecture of the building has been followed, in many instances, in other parts of the state. This justifies the retention of the name "model," because it simply corresponds to the fact. The model school has an excellent standing also as a preparatory school, its course fitting for the leading colleges as well as for the normal school.

The purpose of the model school was defined to be in order that, "The pupils of the normal school shall have opportunity to observe and practice the modes of instruction and discipline inculcated in the normal school, and in which pupils may be prepared for the normal school."

I have given this comparatively full description of the model school as an important factor of the Trenton normal school, and may now turn my attention to the normal school. In 1855 the school began with thirteen instructors and now it has forty-five. The purpose of the normal school was declared to be, "The training and education of its pupils in such branches of knowledge, and such methods of teaching and governing, as will qualify them for teachers of our common schools." The school has never lost sight of this purpose, and as the demands upon teachers have increased from year to year, and consequently greater efficiency is required of schools that train teachers, the Trenton normal school has fully kept pace with the times by increased facilities, by enlarged buildings, by additions to its faculty, by higher requirements of admission, and by extended course of study.

The original cost of school buildings, lot, boarding halls, furniture, etc., was \$155,000. These have enhanced in value, and

been added to until the present value is \$400,000. Although tuition and books are free to all normal students, and the boarding halls are self-supporting, the state annually pays some \$35,000 for the support of the institution, and the legislature always cheerfully appropriates ample sums for its liberal support, showing that the normal school is fully appreciated in the state.

The present building includes ample class room facilities, excellent laboratories for science work, a working library of 3,500 volumes, manual training and kindergarten departments, a large and finely equipped gymnasium, and an audience room capable of seating 1,500. The grounds are ample for outdoor sports, such as baseball, football, tennis, etc.

ADMISSION.

Candidates for admission must be at least sixteen years of age; must declare their intention to prepare for teaching in the state, and promise to teach at least two years in the state or refund the cost of their tuition; and must possess qualifications about equal to those of students ready to enter the last year of a first-class high school. Graduates from high schools of the state that are on the "approved list," are admitted on certificate and can complete the course in two years. The standard of admission has been made higher from year to year, thereby securing to the school better material in its students, and consequently elevating the standard of teachers of the state. Over fifty candidates for admission were rejected last September because of lack of qualifications.

COURSE OF STUDY.

The course of study requires three years. It embraces, aside from its academic work, thorough courses in method, observation, and practice work, manual training, kindergarten, physical training, psychology, pedagogy, and other professional work. Besides the practice work in the model school, the members of the graduating class have five weeks of practice work in the public schools of Trenton. The course of study is one of the most comprehensive and professional to be found in any normal school in the country. The "Studies in Plan," issued in the annual report of 1893, has awakened widespread interest in educational circles and has met with many favorable criticisms.

The school graduates about 150 students each year, who readily find positions in the schools of the state. The total number of graduates thus far is about 1800. Besides these there are many students who have not completed the course, but have gone out to be better teachers and a greater blessing to the schools from having attended the normal school even though for only a short time. This factor, however, is not as great as in some states, a large percentage of the students taking the wiser course and graduating.

PROMOTIONS.

There are no examinations held, each teacher being the sole



STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, TRENTON, N. J.

judge as to the fitness of the student to leave a subject at the end of a term. Each teacher gives tests at irregular intervals, which simply take the time of a regular school period, to assist in forming judgment of the thoroughness of the work both on the part of the instructor and of the student. These tests are not a matter of dread to the students, and they accomplish all of the good of the examinations without any of its evils. They prove the ability of the student to bring forward the knowledge gained in clear, concise language, thereby showing his power to make use of the material which he possesses. If the student lacks this power he is not yet master of the subject. As the tests are unannounced, there is no opportunity for cramming, no nervousness upon their approach, and the student has every incentive to keep up with the work. This system certainly works well, and each student has a practical illustration of what to do when he takes a school for himself.

EXPENSE.

Tuition to normal students is free. The state owns boarding halls in which the students are expected to board. The cost for the year for board, room, washing, lights, etc., is \$150.

THE FACULTY.

The head of the faculty is Dr. James M. Green, who has occupied the position of principal since 1889. During Dr. Green's administration evidences of progress have been manifest on all sides. The normal school has increased from 240 to 650 students, the faculty has been largely increased, the course of study has been extended from a two years' course to a three years' course, the requirements of admission have been raised, and the standing of the school and its graduates has been materially elevated. Dr. Green possesses admirable executive ability, and he commands the respect of not alone his own faculty, but of teachers all over New Jersey as an educator and leader. He has gathered about him a faculty of wide experience and of special fitness each for his own field of instruction. With such a faculty and with students eager to learn, there has been created in the New Jersey normal school an educational atmosphere delightful to live in, an atmosphere full of life and educational inspiration, an atmosphere that does more to make good students and successful teachers than any other influence that can be brought to bear.

THE FUTURE

With such a glorious past and such a prosperous present, the school looks forward with great hope to the future. It looks forward, not so much to increased numbers, the limit having practically been reached, but to increased facilities, to lengthened course of study, and to broader professional training. In a word it looks forward to the time when in word and in fact it shall become the *state normal college of New Jersey*.

Wood Work in Lowell Schools.

LOWELL, MASS.—At the meeting of the New England conference of Educational Workers this month Mr. Carothers, of this city, read a paper in which he reviewed the history of manual training, and showed the benefits already derived from it, and predicted its future value under the guidance and experience of experts. He showed that specializing is daily increasing in manufactures, and it is becoming more and more difficult for boys to learn a full trade. Manual training helps right here by grounding the youth in manipulative skill and enabling them to choose the work best suited to them.

Concrete examples of Mr. Carother's method were given in the shape of twenty models of wood, which were all the work of the Lowell pupils in carpentry and carving. The method is modeled on the Russian system, developed since 1860 in the Imperial university at Moscow.

It differs from other methods in dealing with fundamental forms and processes, rather than with results having obvious uses. The Lloyd and some other systems have in mind the production in the work of articles having a useful relation to general living. According to Mr. Carother's plan boys are started on a plain, rough board, which they are required to plane and saw into correct rectangular proportions. They are then introduced to square pieces of wood, which they saw and chisel into various shapes, numbering nineteen in all, in a series of progressive difficulty and complication.

The secrets of joints, mortises, tonguing, and dovetailing, ending with simple work in carving, constitute the series, the only end aimed at being to enforce familiarity with the use of tools. In every model the boy is required to draw a working plan, and to work from it, so that conjointly with actual tool manipulation he is acquiring the elements of mechanical and free hand drawing. Mr. Carothers has about twenty-four boys taking the course.

An index to the fifty-third volume of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL, ending with the present number, will be sent out with next week's issue.

Massachusetts goes One Step Higher.

BOSTON, MASS.—The state board of education asks for the passage of two laws regarding the preparation of teachers, one providing that no primary or grammar school teacher shall be appointed after a certain time who has not had the equivalent of a four years' high school course and a two years' normal school course, and that no high school teachers shall be appointed after a certain time who has not had the equivalent of a college course and of at least one year of professional teaching.

The other law provides that professional superintendents shall nominate all teachers, such nominations to be acted upon by local boards. A large majority of the teachers now employed would be affected by these laws.

"Similia Similibus Curantur."

MONTREAL.—An unique method of punishing pupils was recently practiced by Prin. W. A. Kueeland, of the Riverside school. Some of the pupils took to school a quantity of cured smoking tobacco. The principal discovering it took some of the tobacco, made an infusion of it in a glass of water, and compelled a number of the boys to swallow it. The matter was brought before the committee of school management of the Protestant board of school commissioners, who summoned Mr. Kueeland, and reprimanded him for infractions of the board's regulations upon punishments, warning him against its repetition.

Vermont Wiser than New York.

MONTPELIER, VT.—The senate has rejected a bill providing for the teaching in the public schools of the effects of the use of tobacco and alcoholic stimulants.

Sarah B. Cooper.

The founder of the kindergartens of San Francisco, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, is dead. The whole city mourns for her. Her death was like her life. It went out in a great sacrifice of unselfish love. She was killed by her insane daughter, a noble and beautiful character, who from overwork in her mother's field of action lost her reason. She inherited also, the fatal taint of madness from her father's family.

She was no more to blame than poor Mary Lamb when she stabbed her mother to death at their dinner table.

Mrs. Cooper knew that her daughter was developing suicidal mania, but she believed that she could control her through her great love, and would not put her in an asylum.

Sarah B. Cooper was of those who lift their age to new height. She loved her home; she was a devoted wife and mother, but she had a heart that went out to all the friendless and unfortunate. With a frail, delicate body, and a keenly sensitive mind, she combined wonderful energy and tireless industry. With her the impulse was not only to sympathize with want or sorrow, but to instantly go to work to alleviate it. She believed that we are not here to make ourselves and our families comfortable alone, but to aid and assist all others less fortunate than ourselves.

She started the kindergarten on faith and seven dollars and a half. She said, "Never mind, God will provide." And, he did provide.

She found a teacher, hired a room, and went down into the slums for her work. Eighteen thousand children have passed through her schools. She took them from sidewalks and alleyways. The wild, untamed denizens of the streets, in a climate like Venice, where they can live out of doors every-day of the year, were civilized and taught by her. Children in rags and dirt, who swore, stole, lied, and grinned at their first moral teachings, were gradually led up to cleanliness, truth, and morality. The police say no kindergarten children have ever been arrested in San Francisco. The mothers come after the children, and many a lost mother was found and saved by this true Sister of Charity.

Mrs. Cooper had that large seeing common sense and honesty of purpose so vitally necessary in a superintendent of schools. She had, too, great executive ability, and a strict sense of justice that does not always accompany it. She chose her teachers wisely because she chose them solely for their merits. She had for one of her first teachers, Kate Douglass Wiggin, now well-known in literature, and her sister Eleanor Smith. She has also had for some years, for superintendent of her schools, an unusually talented kindergartner, Anna M. Stoveall.

When John Swett was superintendent of the city schools, he was always ready to help on the kindergartens, as he was ready to help any good work. He knew and appreciated Mrs. Cooper.

The good will not be interred with this noble woman's bones. It will live for generations after her. San Francisco will write her name high on her roll of honor. The great state of California is better because she lived.

AGNES M. MANNING,
San Francisco, Cal.

A Fine School Destroyed.

CHICAGO.—The manual training annex to the old Scammon school was destroyed by fire. The annex was built five years ago at a cost of \$20,000. About \$30,000 was spent on its equipment. There was no insurance, and the total loss is \$75,000. The school was considered one of the best equipped manual training schools in the country.

Vertical Writing Adopted.

WOONSOCKET, R. I.—The school committee has voted to adopt vertical penmanship in the public schools, in all the grades where copy-books are used. The matter has been under discussion since July.

Electives in Science Teaching.

For the study of science in the advanced school Supt. Black, of Pittsburg, Kan., has made out a course that possesses many excellent features. It is elective, each teacher selecting as he is best fitted. Twelve subjects are proposed: Plants, animals, insects, weather, water, rocks, experiments, physiology, seasons, special topics. Under each are suggestions.

Dr. Gunnison's Energetic Work.

BROOKLYN.—The principal of Erasmus hall high school, Dr. Walter B. Gunnison, is giving much thought to the future welfare of the school. The city has promised \$50,000 for the first wing, and Dr. Gunnison thinks that the structure should not be built without relation to the succeeding ones. The architects' plans can be drawn for the entire group of buildings in accordance with a comprehensive scheme for the development of the high school. It is suggested that the first structure be erected at the side of the present building, and that it be devoted to science. With an equipment of physical and chemical laboratories it would be on a par with any high school in the country. A second wing could be built for the fine arts department, a third for a commercial academy, etc. The style of the new structure should be, in Dr. Gunnison's opinion, of the type of the New York Herald building, which would be more in keeping with the surrounding buildings than one of the many-storied monstrosities.

As regards the course of study Dr. Gunnison is a believer in the elective system, and sees no reason why it should not be applied to high school work. For the first year he proposes uniform courses, but during last three years he allows full liberty of choice, provided that each pupil takes a minimum of eighteen class periods a week.

The commercial course is lengthened two years by the new scheme. Civil government, history, from its practical side, and two modern languages are offered first, and technical subjects, such as bookkeeping, phonography, and type-writing are postponed to the later years of the course.

Dr. Gunnison's recommendations will soon be submitted to the committee on studies, and he hopes that the board of education will act on it at their next meeting.

Medical Examinations.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—The question of the medical inspection of school children is under consideration. For years medical inspection of the girls in the high school has been practiced, with gratifying results as regards the health of the pupils. The average number of pupils sent daily for examination varies from fifteen to twenty-five. Most of the cases examined are trifling ailments, but cases of diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, etc., have been discovered in their early stages. The extension of the plan of medical examination is now being urged by Dr. William H. Ford of the board of health.

New York City Notes.**The New High School.**

It is believed that the first high school to be opened in September next will be a commercial high school organized on a plan similar to the one proposed some years ago by Prof. James, then of the University of Pennsylvania, in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, if we are not mistaken it was entitled, "The High School of the Future."

High School Committee.

The names of the superintendents composing the high school committee are so frequently asked for that we give them here: Albert P. Marble, *chairman*, 78 West 94th St.; James Godwin, 140 East 34th St.; Henry W. Jameson, 47 West 119th St.; Addison B. Poland, 1087 Dean St., Brooklyn; George S. Davis, 149 Lenox avenue. City Supt. John Jasper, 130 West 123d St., is *ex-officio* member of the committee.

Civil Service Examinations.

At the last meeting of the board of education an important reform was attacked by one portion of the members and defended by the others. Mr. Strauss urged the passage of the following resolution:

Whereas, A question has recently been agitated in the public prints as to the jurisdiction of the board of civil service commissioners over the principals and other teachers of the common schools of this city, and

Whereas, Under chapter 387, laws of 1896, known as "the new school bill," jurisdiction in the matter of the appointment and removal of all teachers employed in our schools is vested in this board, as therein provided, and

Whereas, Any claim of mixed or divided power in this matter must lead to confusion, and

Whereas, In the opinion of this board the said civil service commissioners have no jurisdiction over our teachers, they being not a clerical but a professional class of employees, and especially in view of the provisions of the new school bill, now be it

Resolved, That the matter be referred to the special committee on by-laws to investigate said matter, and if it be found that any reasonable doubt exists regarding the exclusive jurisdiction of this board over the principals and teachers engaged in the system, that said committee propose to this board as soon after January 1 as may be practicable such proper bills for presentation to the legislature as will continue in this board the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the appointment, transfer, and removal of teachers as provided by chapter 387, laws of 1896.

A letter was read from the secretary of the state civil service commission stating that the new civil service rules and regulations do not include teachers and instructors in the public schools. Commissioner Agar read from the rules and classifications of the civil service in the state of New York, of which group L covers instructors, which is explicitly said in subdivisions of that group to include principals of schools, teachers in all grades, and examiners.

The resolution of Mr. Strauss was finally laid over for a month. There are weighty reasons for passing it which will be presented in another number of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL.

The method of selecting candidates from the eligible lists is still a mystery to the commissioners, and the following resolution is still before the board:

Resolved, That the board of superintendents is hereby requested to present to the board of education, in the future and at its convenience, the general plan upon which it based its examinations of applicants desirous to be placed upon the eligible list for principals.

Anti-Cigarette League.

On the Fifth of November Supt. Jasper issued the following notice to the pupils of the public schools:

"The Hon. Robert Maclay, president of the board of education, has offered to present a complete outfit of badges to the school having the largest anti-cigarette league in the city.

"Kindly furnish me before Tuesday, November 10, the number of members belonging to the league in your school in order that the award may be made."

The largest number of members of the league was found to be in grammar school No. 7, J. Frank Wright, principal, and on Dec. 9 Commissioner Hubbell, the father of the Anti-Cigarette League, and President Maclay visited the school and presented 700 silver badges to as many pupils. Every boy in the school belongs to the league.

Brief Replies.

R. P. L.—The reason the Ottoman Empire claims the right to control the Black sea is because she once controlled about all the shores of that sea. Russia did not reach the Black sea until the eighteenth century. During the sixteenth the Ottoman empire proper included not only the south shore but the north as far around as the Crimea. The coast along Mingrelia was conquered by Solyman about 1550. The peace concluded with Russia, in 1792, made the Dniester the frontier between the two empires. The contention of the Porte to exclude other nations from navigating the passages which connect the Mediterranean and Black seas seemed well founded when all of the shores of the Black sea were under the jurisdiction of Turkey, but since the acquisitions on that sea by Russia the claim is not a reasonable one. The United States are not held by European treaties, and have always maintained their right to send ships of war into the Black sea.

Frances Strong.—The story of Mogg Megone as employed by Whittier has a basis in tradition like this. He was the ruler or chief of the Indian tribes at the mouth of the Saco river. A renegade by the name of Bonython has promised his daughter Ruth to Mogg in marriage in return for a tract of land; the chief finds she loves a white man by the name of Scammon, and to remove this impediment the latter's scalp is taken off and thrown down before her. Ruth seizes the chief's knife and slays him and rushes into the wilderness. Afterward she betakes herself to a priest at Norridgewock for absolution, but he refuses. She disappears, but is found near by stone dead.

New Books.

Rational Elocution is the title of a very practical volume on the science and art of human expression by Isaac Hinton Brown. It has suggestions that cannot but be helpful to all who teach reading to higher classes. The selections are well made and it is well printed and bound. (A. Flanagan, Chicago. \$1.00.)

A vivid picture of the days of the French revolution is given by Ida M. Tarbell in a biographical study of *Madame Roland*. She was a leader of society, an ardent Republican, and finally a victim of the guillotine, that cut short so many noble lives. The author has given much material that is new to the public, and in a thoroughly readable shape. Much of it was obtained from Madame Roland's descendants. The volume is illustrated with portraits. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

We are taken to far-away Norway in Clive Holland's story, *The Lure of Fame*. The simple life of the village, the honest peasantry, the faithful pastor, the glorious landscape and mountain scenery, described with rare power, make a fitting background on which to paint the hero and heroine—Hans and Ulricha. They have been lovers from childhood. But she discovers the gift of song, goes away to Italy to study, and amid the applause of the throng grows cold to her old lover. He saves her from drowning and loses his own life; then she discovers the value of what she has lost. It is a sweet story, but very sad. (New Amsterdam Book Co., New York.)

A volume of selections from the Bible suitable for reading in the schools has been made by Dr. Sylvanus Stall; it will be appreciated by the busy teacher and no doubt will attain an im-



"CROUCH DOWN THERE YOU VARLETS!"
From "Captain Chap." (J. B. Lippincott Co.)



"COME HERE, MY CHILD."
From "Three Little Daughters of the Revolution."
(Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

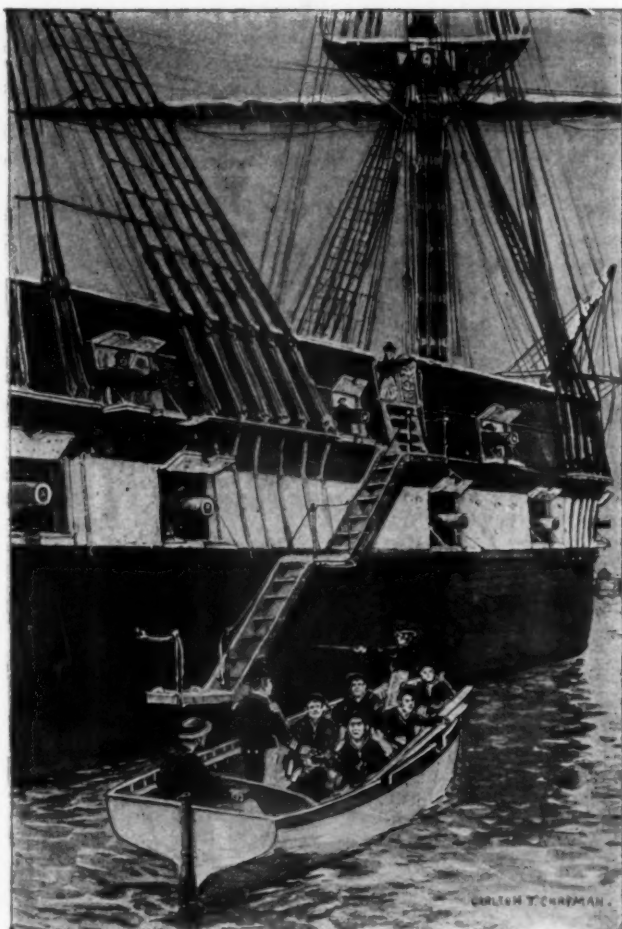
mense circulation. The choicest passages from Genesis to Revelation are arranged in 365 consecutive readings of about twenty-five verses each, and printed in clear type, without note or comment. Difficult names are pronounced, the poetical parts are in verse, the text is from the Authorized Version, printed in paragraphs, as in the Revised Version, and the Four Gospels are arranged in one continuous narrative. (Funk & Wagnalls, New York. Cloth, 686 pp., \$1.00.)

The reader will find in *The Oracle of Baal*, by J. Provand Webster, a story that is as full of wonderful and thrilling adventure as one could desire. It tells of the wonderful things that happened to Prof. Horatio Carmichael, M. A., amid strange scenes and peoples, during his sojourn in Africa. The volume has numerous illustrations by Warwick Goble. (J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. \$1.50.)

A story which is noted for its excellent narrative style is *The Mystery of the Island* by that master story teller Henry Kingsley. It is a tale of bush and pampas and wreck and treasure trove. This new edition has illustrations by Warren Browne. (J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. \$1.25.)

In *The City of Refuge* Sir Walter Besant depicts life in a community in New York state, and at the same time furnishes an entertaining story. A young man and a young woman, who have become members of this peculiar community, fall in love with each other contrary to all the rules of the place, and in the end find more happiness in the outside world. The author does not give a very attractive picture of community life. (Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York.)

English Visible Speech in Twelve Lessons, a book by Alexander Melville Bell, is not intended to displace established letters, but to be a key to their pronunciation. In brief what he calls visible speech is the showing by means of illustrations, accompanied by descriptions, how the sounds of the letters are pro-



Captain Porter and young Farragut arrive at the Essex.

From "Midshipman Farragut." (D. Appleton & Co.)

duced. He holds that its mastery will lay the foundation for excellence both in native speaking and in the utterance of foreign sounds. To deaf learners the lessons will be of especial value. (The Volta Bureau, Washington, D. C. 50 cents.)

A Fearless Investigator is a story in which are introduced subjects that are very fascinating to many people. A young man recovering from typhoid fever, is invited to spend the days of convalescence in the country with friends devoted to new theories and speculations on spiritualism, telepathy, materializing and dematerializing of personality. The investigations are, of course on all of these lines. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.)

The heroine of Evelyn Raymond's story, *A Cape May Diamond*, will attract many friends among young and old. The diamond referred to is a little waif, Karen, who was washed on shore when an infant by the waves and adopted by two old Germans. She is a pleasant, unselfish child who has a good influence on another girl. Karen's father is at last found and the mystery of her origin cleared up. (Roberts Frothers, Boston, 12mo., \$1.00.)

The quotation from the old nursery rhyme "*Not All the King's Horses*," is taken as the title of the novel of Washington society, by Katherine Eleves Thomas. Humpty-Dumpty in this case seems to represent the peace of mind and happiness of a society woman who finds herself suddenly penniless. She is in love with a rising lawyer, but persuades herself that it is her duty to her daughter to stifle this passion and marry a millionaire. (Cassell Publishing Co., New York. 12mo. 38 cents.)

In *The Intriguers* the movements of Dorothea Wayne, the heroine, are sufficiently intangible to prolong the mystery of her final acceptance of one of her three lovers, the novelist, the artist, or the nobleman, to the very final page. The incidental accompaniments of people and places are detailed in an entertaining manner. Three women friends of Dorothea perform the machinations and weave the thread "whereby hangs the tale." It is a readable reasonable love story, opening attractively and closing comfortably. (D. Appleton & Co., New York. Town and Country Library. Price, 50 cents.)

The Practical Teachers' Library has had two more numbers added to it. No. 2 of Vol. II. is *A Visit from Mother Goose*, a Christmas play for primary pupils by Belle L. Davidson; No. 3 of Vol. II. is *At the Court of King Winter*—a Christmas play for school's by Lizzie M. Hadley. Both are bright and attractive and will give infinite delight to the spectators as well as the children. (E. L. Kellogg & Co., New York.)

A well earned reputation for graphic sea tales belongs to W. Clark Russell. The title *An Ocean Free Lance*, indicates the character of his new story. It deals with the career of the schooner *Tigress*, a privateer that was commanded down to 1814 by Shelvocke. The story also follows his career after he took charge of the *Namur*. It is a fascinating combination of romance with naval history. There are a number of excellent illustrations. (New Amsterdam Book Co., New York.)

The bound volume of *The Century* for the past six months has appeared. In glancing over the contents one cannot fail to be impressed with their high literary and artistic value. The volume contains the conclusion of Professor Sloane's "Life of Napoleon." There is also the last half of Mrs. Ward's "Sir George Tressady, and three novelettes: "The Harshaw Bride," by Mary Hallock Foote; "An Open-Eyed Conspiracy," by W. D. Howells; and "Prisoners of Conscience," by Amelia E. Barr. A group of papers by Mr. James Bryce, "Impressions of South Africa," is the most important record of the political development of a great country. Kindred to these are the three papers made up from the journals of the late E. J. Glave, describing the British struggles for the suppression of the Arab slave trade. Notable single papers are the illustrated articles on Venezuela and Guiana, by W. Nephew King and Thomas Dalgleish; on Li Hung Chang, by John W. Foster "The Crowning of a Czar," by Miss Thornton; "About French Children," by Th. Bentzon, with pictures by Boutet de Monvel; "An Island Without Death," by Elza Scidmore; "A Family Record of Ney's Execution," "Pharaoh of the Hard Heart," by W. M. Flinders Petrie; two articles on Rome by Marion Crawford, with pictures by Castaigne, and two on Spain by Mrs. Pennell, with drawings by Joseph Pennell; "In Bohemia with Du Maurier," by Felix Moscheles, with a number of hitherto unpublished drawings by Du Maurier himself, etc. Art is also represented by several other papers, and by the many illustrations drawn by leading artists. There are short stories by many popular writers. (The Century Co., Union Square, N. Y. \$3.00.)



From "Alone in China."

Copyright, 1896, by Harper & Brothers.

A MANDARIN STREET PAGEANT.

Edward Fitzgerald showed that he was a poet of rare power by his translation into English verse of the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*. Before that this Persian bard was but little known to English readers; now he is as well known as Firdausi. Lovers of poetry are therefore under a lasting obligation to Fitzgerald. As stated in the biographical preface (referring to Mr. Whinfield's translation) Mr. Fitzgerald has, in some instances, given a version equally close and exact; in others rejoined scattered phrases from more than one stanza of his original, and thus accomplished a feat of marvelous poetical transfusion. The volume also contains Fitzgerald's translation of the *Salámán and Absál of Jámi*. It is handsomely bound and adorned with a frontispiece portrait of the translator. (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York and Boston.)

The true poet can find poetry everywhere and the true novelist can construct a good story out of the simplest materials. In *Isla Huron*, Laura E. Richards has written of simple people of the seashore, yet she has so idealized this simple life that the reader is irresistibly charmed. The girl Isla and her family and friends with their joys and sorrows and aspirations are described by a sure and delicate hand. It is among the best novelettes of the season. (Estes & Lauriat, Boston.)

Prof. J. B. Wisely, of the Indiana state normal school, has prepared a book entitled *Language for the Grades*, which must be looked upon as an attempt to solve a very serious problem. The children as they enter on each successive grade must study not merely reading, but language. One excellent principle kept in view has been to lead the pupil to think for himself. There are some two hundred lessons, which the teacher is to use to fix the habit of correct speech. His main thought is to assist the teacher to be able to interest the scholar in using good English, to get him to watch his own speech and the speech of others. This is a most important field of work and the author has shown unusual comprehension of the needs of the teacher in the preparation of this volume. (Inland Publishing Co., Terre Haute, Ind.)

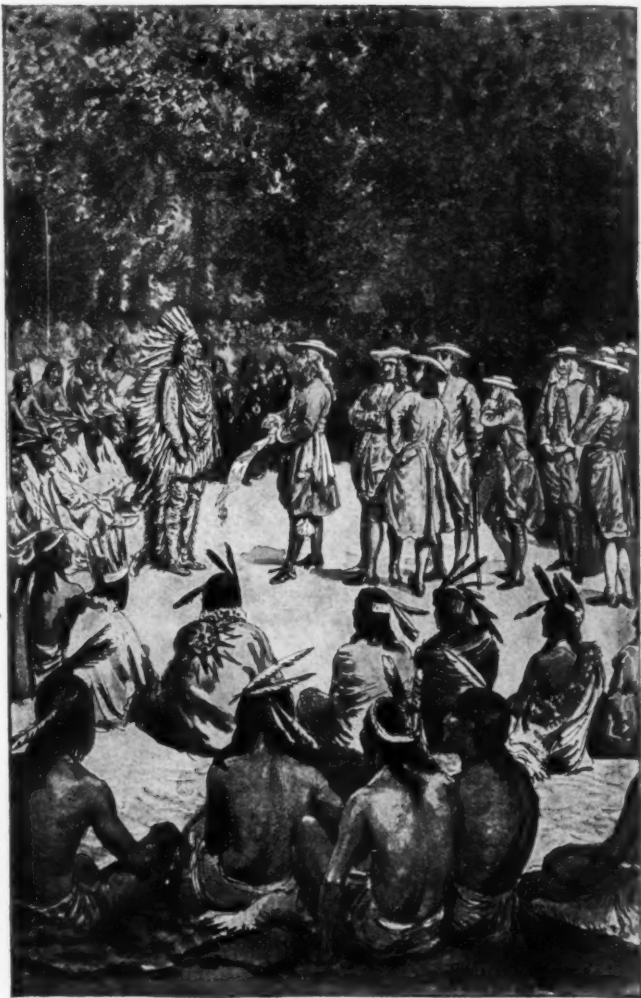
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Christmas Magazines.

The *Kindergarten Magazine*, Woman's Temple, Chicago, as a supplement brings a lithograph reproduction of Edwin Blastfield's "Bells." The leading article, well illustrated, is on Japanese kindergarten. The editor contributes a sketch of the Brookline (Mass.) schools, listing them as well equipped, well developed, and well poised. "A Christmas Wonder Story," telling why the chimes ring, is an exquisite and seasonable bit of literature by Raymond Macdonald Alden. Other interesting articles are, "How the World Made Ready for the Christ Child," "A Twentieth Century Geitrude," several Christmas carols with music and words, etc.

The dainty little Madonna and child framed in a wreath of holly and mistletoe which adorns the cover of the December *Chautauquan* is a suggestion of the artistic treat within; the frontispiece is the famous Boderhausen Madonna, and eight pages are occupied by reproductions of some of the favorite Madonnas of the masters. In the value and attractiveness of its textual matter also this number is unusually rich.

Harper's Bazar, issued on December 4, contains an article on the recent "National Council of Jewish Women," by Mrs. Joseph R. Wallach, with portraits of the leaders of the council. There is also an interesting paper on "Every-Day Physical Culture," and numerous Christmas suggestions of a practical kind.

The December number of *Current Literature* has numerous holiday features, in addition to its regular departments. Among these special features are a "French Christmas Legend," "The Three Low Masses," by Alphonse Daudet; "A Yuletide Legend of King Arthur's Country," two pages of Christmas Verse; and a timely reproduction of Washington Irving's "Christmas Feast at Bracebridge Hall," from the Sketch Book. Holiday books are extensively reviewed.

The January or holiday number of *Short Stories* provides its readers with an abundance of good fiction both original and translated. There are also several stories with a Christmas setting by writers of note such as W. E. Norris, Grant Allen, Paul Arèue, and others. Edward Everett Hale's celebrated and stirring tale "The Man Without a Country," is reprinted as the famous story of the month.

The editor of the *Review of Reviews* (December) is convinced that the verdict against free silver pronounced on November 3 was conclusive, that Mr. Bryan's cause cannot survive defeat, that the South will never again cast so large a vote for it, and, in short, that as a proposition in practical politics free silver's prospects are utterly hopeless.

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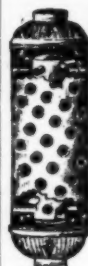
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Literary Notes.

Charles Scribner's Sons have just published *The Edge of the Orient*, by Robert Howard Russell; with 130 illustrations, chiefly from photographs. Mr. Russell gives an account of an interesting trip along the picturesque coast of Dalmatia and Montenegro, an unfamiliar field of travel, and continuing through Constantinople and the eastern coast of Asia Minor to Cairo and the Nile.

Dickens's daughter, before she died, had completed a book called, "My Father As I Knew Him," which will be published soon.

The Macmillan Company announces a volume of travel which for many reasons will attract and hold attention. It is *The Log of a Naturalist in West Africa*, by Miss Mary Kingsley, daughter of the novelist and enthusiastic naturalist, the Rev. Charles Kingsley.

Our New President, is a march by Juliet S. Norton dedicated to the Republican party of America. It is published by the Union Mutual Music Company, 265 Sixth avenue, N. Y.

Encouraged by the success of the Temple Shakespeare, of which close upon half a million copies have been sold, the Macmillan Company, New York, and Dent & Co., London, are going to issue a series of the best tragedies and comedies of the English dramatists.

It was the custom in the old-time stories to address the gentle reader. We address the gentle writer and admonish him to dot his *i's* and cross his *t's* and make a distinction between his *u's* and *n's* or else use a typewriter. He would thereby save the poor printer much mental pain and loss of time. The typewriter has come to stay; manufacturers recognize this fact, and are trying to make it as perfect as possible. Among the best is the Smith Premier, made by the Smith Premier Typewriter Co., Syracuse, N. Y. One of the improvements on this machine is an automatic locking arrangement which makes piling up of letters absolutely impossible. The catalogue gives a full description of the machine and its parts.

Fever in General.

The prominent conditions which must be relieved are the elevation of temperature, and the headache, or dullness in this region. Too much cannot be said in favor of Antikamnia in this connection.

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The Thriving Alaskan Reindeer.

The trading schooner recently arrived from Port Clarence with a cargo of ivory and whalebone. She brought one passenger, J. C. Wedstad, superintendent of the government station at that point, who is bound for Washington.

The reindeers introduced into Alaska some years ago from Siberia are reported to be flourishing, the herd numbering exactly 1,200. Four hundred and fifty of these are at Port Clarence, where an increase of 132 is reported this season. The animals are prospering under the care of Laplanders, who went north under contract to the government three years ago. Wedstad's mission to the government is to draw up another contract. He will also recommend a plan which, if carried into effect, will be of much benefit to the northwest territory. The plan in brief is to establish a number of reindeer relay stations to bring about communication with the extreme north; even Point Barrow, the northernmost settlement, to be included. This can be done at small expense to the government and will be of inestimable benefit to fisherman, whalers, revenue cutters, and miners, particularly the latter, between Cook's Inlet and the Yukon. No outlay would be required except for the station buildings, as the animals are trained and the Laplanders only too glad to see each other. — *Tacoma Ledger*.

Some Long Marks to Cleveland's Credit.

It is Mr. Cleveland, who, with his secretary of state, Mr. Olney, wins the chief honor for the beneficent arrangements which now insure not only present peace, but the promise of permanent confidence and good understanding between England and the United States. Furthermore, it is to Mr. Cleveland's policy that we must attribute the interesting fact that for the first time in a long period the presidential campaign has been fought out on both sides with almost total freedom from the impelling motive of the victor's spoils. Some scores of thousands of federal offices, with their honors and emoluments, had in former campaigns furnished the chief incentive to the bribery and the fraud that were so extensively perpetrated. But Mr. Cleveland has within the past two years so widely extended the sphere within which the civil-service law protects the holders of places in the public employ, that the greed for spoils was almost eliminated from the recent contest. With the triumph of the merit system in the domain of the national service, and with its steady progress in the services of the states and municipalities, the cause of honest and efficient government will have made almost immeasurable progress in the United States. It happens to be Mr. Cleveland's good fortune to have identified himself most honorably and conspicuously with this far-reaching movement for the redemption of American public life. — *December Review of Reviews*.

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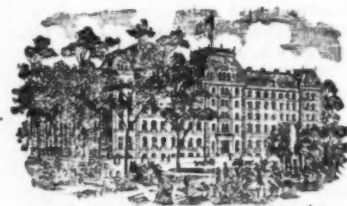


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The Editor wants every teacher in the United States to know about this bright little paper of Current Events. More attention is being paid to the teaching of Current History, and OUR TIMES is the best aid for both teacher and pupils published.

Foreign Lands.

The British-Egyptian Expedition.

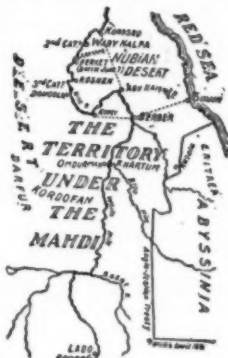
The British-Egyptian expedition up the River Nile, with Dongola, if not Khartoum, as the objective point, under the command of Sir Herbert H. Kitchener, is now steadily advancing. During the past few months the expedition has been struggling with heat and cholera, building railroads, and passing gunboats in sections up the river and over the cataracts. Now 15,000 men, not including natives employed in the transport service, are moving south, with a flotilla of about fifteen sternwheel gunboats, some of them towing over 200 other boats and barges loaded with supplies, ammunition, etc.



SIR HERBERT H. KITCHENER,
Commander of the Anglo-
Egyptian Expedition.

The gunboats are expected to play a very important part in the campaign. They are from 100 to 175 feet long, 20 to 27 feet beam, draw only two feet of water, and are able to make about fourteen miles an hour. Each gunboat carries one twelve-pounder, quick-firing Maxim gun, six or eight lighter Maxims, and some of them 24-pounder Armstrongs. Amidships is a conning tower and an electric searchlight. Their opponent will be the famous Osman Digma, whose army will be anywhere from 50,000 to 600,000. By keeping close to the Nile and using these formidable gunboats, the British ought to find it easy to beat him. If the expedition is successful considerable territory will be added to the British empire.

The invading army lately captured Dongola and scattered the opposing army. The map shows Wadi Halfa, from which the Egyptian army advanced in March to occupy Akasheh; Berket, where the dervishes were badly defeated on June 7. Kosheh, from which the Egyptian army advanced on Dongola. Broken lines indicate desert routes; that from Suakin to Berber will be followed by any supporting force sent from Suakin to the Nile. Lado, in the south, is the point which the co-operating army of the Congo state has reached; and Regaaf is the most southern point on the Nile where a Mahdist garrison has recently been maintained.



Victoria's Reign the Longest.

Queen Victoria's reign becoming on Sept. 23 the longest of any British sovereign, all the morning newspapers published historic reviews of the events of the Victorian era, and editorials congratulating her Majesty. The papers dilated upon the progress that has been made in political economy and in all the arts, sciences, and industries since the queen ascended the throne, on June 20, 1837.

Nelson's Old Flagship.

The old British line-of-battle ship *Foudroyant*, which was Lord Nelson's flagship in 1800, is being refitted at Woolwich and will soon make a voyage to this side of the globe, touching at Halifax, Boston, New York, and other Atlantic ports. She was built in 1799, and was intended for service against Napoleon when he was striving to get possession of Egypt. She was not completed in time for the battle of the Nile delta, but was victorious in a number of subsequent battles with the French in the Mediterranean sea. She was Nelson's flagship when he captured the *Genereux* and when he took the *William Tell*. The vessel, which had been sold to Germany, was re-purchased. The hull has been painted, all the masts and rigging replaced, and the eighty old smooth-bore guns have been remounted on the upper and lower gun decks. In short, the *Foudroyant* looks to-day just as she did when cruising after French frigates.



NELSON'S FLAGSHIP.

Smuggling in Chinese from Canada.

The law prohibiting Chinese immigration also requires that those Chinese who are entitled to live here by reason of long residence shall obtain certificates of U. S. commissioners to that effect. Lately it has transpired that many Chinese with forged certificates have been smuggled over the Canadian border.

Corea's First Railroad.

An American has just secured the right to build the first railroad in Corea, from Chemulpo on the sea coast to Seoul, the capital, a distance of twenty-five miles. The same man recently put an electric light plant in the king's palace. Corea abounds in rich mines of gold, silver, iron, copper, and coal, and the railroad will help in developing them.

The Bombardment of Zanzibar.

Hamid bin Thwain, the sultan of Zanzibar died Aug. 25. There were several claimants to the throne and it was seized by Seyyid Khalid contrary to the wishes of the British, who hold a protectorate over the island. There were three British warships lying in the harbor at the time and the commander demanded Seyyid Khalid's surrender. He refused to do so, and the palace and custom house were bombarded and destroyed and the usurper taken prisoner. Hamoud, a cousin of the late sultan, was declared sultan.

Zanzibar comprises the island of that name, together with Pemba and several smaller islands, and a narrow strip on the adjoining coast of Africa. The city is very low, and hence the palace was an easy mark for the bombarding ships. There are no docks, and everything is landed on the beach or carried thence to the vessels which export the cloves and ivory that form a large part of the commerce of the island. During the hours of business, 6 A. M. to 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. to sundown, this beach presents a picturesque scene, with the hosts of black laborers loading and unloading the ships.

The European residents of Zanzibar consist of a few American and English traders, English missionaries, and members of the army and navy—only a few score in all. The greater part of the 200,000 population of the island is made up of slaves from inner Africa, Arab natives of Zanzibar, and Hindus from India. There are 25,000 of the latter. The Arabs and slaves, wear long gowns of loose cotton, falling to the ankles and wrapped loosely about them. Zanzibar will probably become a permanent possession of Great Britain.

What Shall Be Done With Turkey?

The list of crimes in Turkey is a long and a black one. They have resulted partly from the inability, but principally from the unwillingness of the government to deal fairly by its Christian subjects. For about two years the murders and outrages in Armenia have horrified the civilized world. During the summer a revolt in Crete put the whole island in a turmoil and seriously threatened the peace of Europe. Then came disturbances in Macedonia and riots in Constantinople during which 3,000 or 4,000 people were killed. A government that cannot maintain peace in its own dominions has no right to exist, and so think the great powers of Europe. The riots stirred them; but the clearing of the murderers, in spite of the most indisputable proof of their crimes, aroused the indignation of the people, especially in England, to the extreme. Gladstone calls for the stopping of the bloody work of the "throned murderer" of the Bosphorus. In obedience to the commands of England he has ceased expelling Armenians from Constantinople. Will the powers act and put an end to Abdul Hamid's disgraceful reign and perhaps of the Turkish empire, or are they afraid of the consequences that will follow such action?

The Conservatives Beaten in Ecuador.

Gen. Eloy Alfaro is just now the hero of a successful revolution in Ecuador. In April, 1895, was begun a movement for the overthrow of Dr. Cordero an obnoxious Conservative president whose government was charged with corruption and who held the office against the wishes of the people. Everything was in confusion, and the revolution did not make much progress until Alfaro, who was in exile in Nicaragua, returned to the country. He organized an army and marched to Quito, which he captured. In January, 1896, the Conservatives stirred up a counter revolution, which Alfaro has just succeeded in suppressing. He is popular with the common people and will assume the office of president as soon as a lawful election can be held.



GEN. ELOY ALFARO.

Taking Possession of the Antarctic Continent.

Argentina means to get ahead of the European powers in taking possession of the South Shetland islands on the edge of the Antarctic continent. An expedition will be sent out for the purpose in December next. The islands may possibly be of some use as a sealing and whaling station.

How Long can Spain Hold Out?

The reports of numerous skirmishes in Cuba indicate that the inactivity of the armies, owing to the wet season, is about ended. Both the Spaniards and the Cubans have been preparing for active campaigning. The Spaniards have increased their navy and expect to send 40,000 more men to the island within the next few weeks. It is estimated that the Spanish army there now numbers 120,000. But operations did not altogether cease during the wet weather. General-in-Chief Gomez was in the easternmost province, Santiago de Cuba and Gen. Macco in the westernmost province, Pinar del Rio. The main body of the Spanish army was stationed along the line of the trocha from Havana to the south coast, while lesser bodies served as garrisons for Havana, Matanzas, Puerto Principe, Santiago, and other places. The rebels took advantage of every opportunity to annoy, harass, and bewilder the enemy. Squads of them would fall upon a Spanish camp in night time, or give pursuit to a regiment upon the march, or make a raid into a region where they were not looked for, or blow up a railroad bridge, or capture an ammunition train, or menace the jaded troops of the trocha, or raise a fright in Havana by menacing it. Gomez is said to have between 70,000 and 80,000 men. The best accounts agree in saying that the Spanish cause has grown weaker during the summer months.

Spain's Deplorable Condition.

All sorts of misfortunes are crowding in upon Spain. First came the explosion in the Cambios Nuevos in Barcelona, which put a great number of families in mourning. Then came the great rains of the past winter, which seriously damaged the crops of the richest provinces, Aragon, Navarre, Catalonia, etc. The rains were soon followed by burning and premature spells of hot weather, which completed the ruin. The phylloxera also took a hand in this work of destruction, and caused great damage to the vines. Then after the water, came the fire. The terrible conflagration of Rueda, in the province of Valladolid, destroyed 600 houses and brought misery and total ruin upon thousands of honest workmen. Now the political plague is raging. Hundreds of Republicans have been arrested in Madrid, Seville, and Barcelona, on information more or less correct. All this is capped by the war in Cuba, which is wasting so many millions and so many lives.

The roads are crowded with poor people traveling from one province to another, each one carrying all his earthly goods in a

sack. In this way they tramp along with heavy hearts, haggard and emaciated, worn out by sufferings, seeking relief one day from charity and the next day from theft. Every day brings new processions of wretched wanderers, knocking at each door and begging for bread.

A big sum of money, twenty millions, will also be needed, for the Cuban war. The government has studied the means of procuring it, but the cortes refuses to adopt the proposed measures. It is easy to see, therefore, that the difficulties are great, both above and below. Wretchedness is all around. Among the lower classes it is physical; in the upper classes it is moral.

Princess Kaiulani Returns to Hawaii.

The report that Princess Kaiulani was about to return to Hawaii gave rise to the rumor that an effort was to be made to restore her to the throne. When she returns she will receive an ovation from the natives and have whites. She will probably, however, not sanction anything that will endanger the \$2,000 pension she receives annually from the government.

Dr. Nansen Honored.

The Arctic hero, Dr. Nansen, who traveled 190 miles nearer the north pole than any explorer ever did before, was given a great reception when he arrived at Christiania, Norway, Sept. 9. The *Fram*, his stanch little ship, was escorted up the fjord by a fleet of steamers and the king conferred on him the Grand Cross of St. Olaf.

The Dublin Convention.

A convention of representatives of the Irish race from various countries was held recently in Dublin. Its object was to secure union of action among the Irish representatives to parliament. The work of conciliating the factions was not wholly a success.

Agreement Between Italy and Abyssinia.

As a result of the late war in Abyssinia, in which the Italians were beaten, Italy has agreed to pay king Menelek 2,000,000 francs as compensation for sustaining the Italians captured during the war. The limits of the Italian colony of Eritrea is also definitely defined and the Italians are to keep within those limits.

An Alleged Dynamite Plot.

It is a long time since the royal houses of England and Russia have received such a shock as occurred recently. On September 14, the detectives of Scotland Yard, London, announced that "the greatest dynamite plot ever known has been defeated by the arrest of four of the principal conspirators." Two of them were arrested in Rotterdam, one in Bologne, and one in Glasgow; explosives were found with them. One of them is charged with being accessory to the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish, in Dublin in 1882. The plot is said to have been hatched in New York by Fenians and Nihilists, and that they intended to kill the czar and blow up the queen in Balmoral castle. The friends of the men claim that there are no substantial grounds for these charges.



PRINCE LOBANOFF.

Death of a Russian Statesman.

Prince Lobanoff, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, died suddenly August 30, while on his way from Vienna to Dresden. His death is a great loss to Russia. One paper calls him the first minister of Europe, who baffled Japan in the Far East and successfully flouted Europe in Armenia.

Costa Rica and Colombia have passed laws forbidding the importation of foreign silver.

The prince of Naples, heir to the Italian throne, will soon marry Princess Helene of Montenegro.

The English government has announced that it will not act on the Turkish question except in conjunction with the powers.

King Humbert has just signed a decree ordering the formation of an Italian Atlantic squadron for the protection of Italy's interests in South America.

The close vote of the contested election for president of Chile has been decided in favor of the Conservative or Clerical candidate, Frederico Errazuriz.

Several Irishmen, accused of using dynamite in England during the political agitation about twelve years ago, have recently been released from English prisons.

The British Trades Union Congress held its twenty-ninth annual session in Edinburgh, closing September 12. The congress asked for an eight hour day for all trades and occupations.

A fierce dispute has existed for some time between England and Brazil over the possession of Trinidad, a small island off the Brazilian coast. Recently Great Britain hauled down her flag and left Brazil in possession.

Queen Victoria has signified her willingness to receive a petition with 7,000,000 signatures against the traffic in opium and spirituous liquors. The signatures were collected by Frances Willard and Lady Henry Somerset.

Li Hung Chang has had three hundred badges of the various classes and grades of the order of the Double Dragon manufactured in London, which he will distribute among the persons who have helped to make his tour agreeable.

Our Own Land.

The Visit of Li Hung Chang.

On Aug. 28, the distinguished Chinese statesman Li Hung Chang arrived on the steamship *St. Louis*, and was welcomed in New York harbor by the booming of guns from eleven warships. The greatest honors were paid to him in New York, Philadelphia,



LI HUNG CHANG.
(Signature in Chinese.)

Washington, and other places. Li Hung Chang came from humble life, rose to eminence as a scholar, and because of his merit entered the public service. When the Tae Ping rebellion occurred over thirty years ago, he found himself in command of the Chinese army, and before long he had restored peace in the valley of the Yangtse-Kiang. In this campaign he was associated with the famous British general Gordon.

The emperor rewarded Li Hung Chang by making him a governor. At the age of thirty-eight he became the viceroy of two provinces. In time he was named the senior

guardian of the emperor. Then came the yellow jacket, the Order of the Garter in China, and with it command of the northern army. Then followed the superintendency of trade and the highest order of nobility. Later there were added the offices of prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The Tonquin war was an event in the viceroy's career. It came from the desire of the Western powers to appropriate Asia bit by bit. Great Britain had annexed Burmah, and France wanted some of the southern Chinese provinces, but the struggle for these was resisted with consummate tact. France sought an understanding with Japan by which the ports of that country could be used as a base of operations against China. This the viceroy, aided by the American government, resisted, and Japan remained neutral. The effect of this was to paralyze the naval power of France. France then proposed to take the Chinese merchant fleet, but Li Hung Chang quietly transferred the steamers to the American flag. The result of the war was the triumph of the viceroy.

When Gen. Grant made his tour around the world he visited China and became intimate with Li Hung Chang, whom he ranked as a statesman with Bismarck, Gladstone, Gambetta, and Disraeli. Through Gen. Grant's influence the dispute of China and Japan over the Loo Choo islands was peacefully settled and the war between the countries postponed for fifteen years. It was Grant's opinion that China and Japan should cultivate peace; that if a war came it would give an opportunity for Western powers to intervene against the interests of both—a prophecy that was fulfilled in the late war. Grant thought the United States and China had many interests in common; they have much to gain from close trade relations. The viceroy answered Grant's invitation to visit the United States by placing a wreath on his tomb in Riverside park, New York.

Li Hung Chang came to this country as the special ambassador of the emperor of China. What the result will be it would be hard to tell, but it will probably be followed by closer trade relations between the two countries. China may be seeking a change in the immigration laws. The viceroy complained bitterly while here of the injustice of the present regulations. He went to Canada, and from there will go home by the way of Vancouver.

Another Presidential Ticket.

The representatives of the Democrats who dissent from the Chicago platform met at Indianapolis Sept. 2. They declared that "the experience of mankind has shown that by reason of their natural qualities, gold is the necessary money of large affairs of commerce and business, while silver is conveniently adapted to minor transactions, and the most beneficial use of both together can be insured by the adoption of the former as a standard of monetary measure, and the maintenance of silver at parity with gold by its limited coinage under suitable safeguards of law." The convention also declared in favor of a tariff for revenue and a liberal policy toward American shipping, praised



SENATOR PALMER.

the administration of President Cleveland, and condemned the "efforts to degrade the United States supreme court or impair the confidence and respect which it has deservedly held."

Senator J. M. Palmer, of Illinois, was nominated for president and Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, of Kentucky, for vice-president.



GEN. BUCKNER.

Gen. Palmer is a Kentuckian by birth. His profession is that of a lawyer, and before the war he held several judicial and other offices. He was a member of the convention that nominated John C. Fremont and cast an electoral vote for Abraham Lincoln. During the war he took part in the campaigns that included the operations at Springfield, Mo., New Madrid, Island No. 10, Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta. He left the service with the rank of major-general. He was elected governor of Illinois in 1868 as a Republican, but shortly after became a Democrat and as such was elected to the United States senate in 1890.

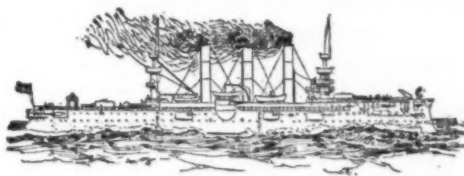
Gen. Buckner is also distinguished in war, politics, and law. He is a graduate of West Point and fought in the Mexican war. He commanded a brigade in the battle of Fort Donelson in February, 1862, and after the escape of Gens. Pillow and Floyd he surrendered to Gen. Grant, and was made a prisoner with 16,000 men. He was imprisoned at Fort Warren, Boston, until he was exchanged in August, 1862. Then he was made major-general and took part in the battle of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga. In 1887 he was elected governor of Kentucky.

Miss Barton's Mission a Success.

Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross Society, has returned from Armenia. She says the sultan and the Turkish officers gave her assistance in her work of aiding the unfortunate, and also that her assistants found extreme desolation in the interior provinces of Asia Minor. The peasants were reluctant to leave the remnants of their villages to resume work in the fields, fearing that they would again be attacked by the Kurds, and consequently they were in dire need of food. The sultan gave orders that they should be protected and these were faithfully carried out.

A New American Cruiser.

The new cruiser *Brooklyn* has just had her acceptance trial off the coast of New England. Her length is 400.50 feet; beam, 64.68 feet; draught, 24.00 feet; displacement, 9,271.60 tons; coal capacity, 1,753 tons; horse power, 16,000 tons; speed in knots, 21. The crew consists of 46 officers and 515 men. She will have



THE NEW CRUISER, "BROOKLYN."

eight 8-inch breech-loading rifles, twelve 5-inch quick-fire breech loaders, twelve 6-pound rapid fire, four 1-pounder rapid fire, and four machine guns. She will also have the first 300 of those terrible repeating small arms just adopted by the navy—the rifles whose projectiles resemble a two-inch length of lead pencil and can pierce five or six ranks of men before their tremendous energy is expended.

Three New Battleships to be Built.

Three of the most powerful battleships yet designed for the American navy will soon be built, two on the Atlantic coast and one on the Pacific. No vessels of their size ever built will have an armament so magnificent, an armor of such resisting power, or a speed so great. They will represent the latest improvements of naval science, machinery, ordnance, and armor. Their cost will be about \$5,000,000 each. Each of them will have a crew of forty officers and five hundred men.

Blackfeet Reservation to be Opened.

The Blackfeet reservation will be thrown open for settlement about the first of next year. The survey which was started on July 20 is about completed. It will take several weeks to complete the field notes and maps. It will also take the department officials at Washington fully sixty days to complete their work. Nevertheless hundreds of people are encamped already on the borders of the reservation awaiting the time when the ceded portion is opened. The colony includes men, women, and children from every portion of the United States. Many Mormons from Utah are among the number, while Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan, and Nebraska furnish large numbers. There are

many old prospectors from various parts of Montana. The mineral wealth of the reservation is said to be wonderful. Prospectors say that the greatest copper mines yet discovered will be found.

A Celebrated Phrenologist Dies.

Prof. Lorenzo Niles Fowler, the celebrated phrenologist, died of paralysis, Sept. 3 at West Orange, N. J., at the age of eighty-five years. While in Amherst college he and his brother, Orson S. Fowler, and Henry Ward Beecher became interested in phrenology. It proved to be the life work of the Fowlers. Soon after leaving college they started the *Phrenological Journal*, the first paper in the United States devoted to phrenology. L. N. Fowler wrote many books and lectured extensively in this country and Europe. He examined the heads of thousands, including many celebrities, among them the late Czar Alexander III., Dwight L. Moody, Horace Greeley, Mrs. Stowe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Samuel F. B. Morse, Cyrus W. Field, Sir Henry Irving, John Bright, Cobden, Charles Dickens, and William Cullen Bryant.



PROF. FOWLER.

Eight Presidential Tickets.

There are eight presidential tickets in the field this year. Great confusion will be likely to result in some states. In the order of their nomination the tickets are as follows:

Prohibitionist—Nominated at Pittsburg May 27: For president—Joshua Levering of Maryland; vice-president—Hale Johnson, of Illinois.

National Party—Free Silver, Woman Suffrage off-shoot of the regular Prohibitionists, nominated at Pittsburg May 28: For president—Charles E. Bentley, of Nebraska; vice-president—James Haywood Southgate, of North Carolina.

Republican—Nominated at St. Louis June 18: For president William McKinley, of Ohio; vice-president—Garret Augustus Hobart, of New Jersey.

Socialist Labor—Nominated at New York July 4: For president—Charles H. Matchett, of New York; vice-president—Matthew McGuire, of New Jersey.

Democratic Party—Nominated at Chicago July 10 and 11: For president—William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska; vice-president—Arthur Sewall, of Maine.

Silverites—Nominated at St. Louis, July 24: For president—William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska; vice-president—Arthur Sewall, of Maine.

People's Party—Nominated at St. Louis, July 24 and 25: For president—William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska; vice-president—Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia.

National Democratic Party—Nominated at Indianapolis, Sept. 3: For president—John McAuley Palmer, of Illinois; vice-president—Simon Boliver Buckner, of Kentucky.

Lord Russell Favors Arbitration.

The address of Lord Chief-Justice Russell, of Great Britain, in favor of international arbitration before the American Bar Association at Saratoga was an event of no small importance. It shows that the most enlightened sentiment of the world is against war. Lord Russell cited resolutions in favor of arbitration adopted by the chief law making bodies of the United States, Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, and France, together with the organization of The Interparliamentary Union, whose seventh session will be held this year at Budapest, as among the evidences of the growth of the sentiment.



LORD CHIEF-JUSTICE RUSSELL.

Electricity on the Erie Canal.

English capitalists, it is reported, will install a complete system of electric traction on the Erie canal within a short time. This is but a part of the extensive plan to cheapen rates from the West to the East and then to Europe. It contemplates a direct service from Chicago and Duluth by the use of steel canal boats after the type of the six that were built last year in Cleveland and made one trip to New York. With the aid of floating elevators the canal boats can be unloaded into ocean steamers in New York harbor without the necessity of storage.

The Largest Steamship Afloat.

The Hamburg-American Steamship Company's new twin-screw steamer *Pennsylvania* just launched at Belfast is the largest merchant steamer afloat. Its carrying capacity is 20,000 tons, its length 585 feet, its beam 62 feet, and its depth 42 feet. The ship will make fourteen knots an hour and will carry 1350 passengers.

Protecting the Women and Children.

On Sept. 1 a law went into effect in New York state forbidding the employment in shops, etc., of any child under fourteen years of age; no male under sixteen, or female under twenty-one, can

work in any establishment for more than ten hours a day or sixty hours per week, or before seven in the morning or after ten in the evening, the period of the Christmas holidays excepted. No women and children can be employed in an improperly lighted or ventilated basement; forty-five minutes must be allowed for the noon-day meal. Fines or imprisonment, or both, may be imposed for violation of this law.

The Number of Seals Growing Smaller.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, who is at the head of the American seal commission, says that the herds are not near as large as formerly. The North American Commercial Company will be unable to get more than 15,000 skins from the Pribilof islands this season. The seals seem to be destined to extermination.

Confederate Memorial Institute.

The Confederate Memorial Association met on Lookout mountain Sept. 3 and decided on the foundation of the Confederate Memorial Institute which will be a depository of historical data of the late war, together with everything from that period that the Southern people hold dear—statuary, pictures, relics, etc.

The Yerkes Observatory.

The Yerkes observatory at Lake Geneva, Wis., is nearing completion, and it is thought that the great telescope will be placed in position within a few months. The iron work of the dome is 110 feet high and ninety feet in diameter, and weighs about 200 tons. It revolves readily on twenty-six sets of ball-bearing wheels. It will be manipulated by electricity.



THE YERKES OBSERVATORY.

Beneath the dome is a marble floor, hung with counter-balance weights and capable of being raised or lowered twenty-five feet. The lenses to be used in the telescope are the largest ever constructed.

Centennial of Washington's "Farewell Address."

The anniversary (Sept. 19) of the publication of Washington's "Farewell Address" marks the last of the centennials commemorating the Revolutionary period. During his life Washington was assailed as bitterly probably as any public man we have ever had; now he is revered by all. This should dispose of hopelessness such persons as bewail the present immoderate attacks on our public men.

Plans for Coast Defence.

Plans for the fortification of many of the more important sea-coast cities have been adopted by the experts of the war department. The dynamite gun will not play an important part, as this instrument is considered still in the experimental stage, but 16 inch rifles will be largely used. Submarine mines are also to enter into the scheme, but this part of the defences will be most carefully guarded from public attention for fear that foreign governments may learn the proposed location of the mines and torpedoes. The construction of a great line of defences, extending along the Atlantic seaboard from Portland to Jacksonville, and around the gulf to New Orleans and Galveston, means a substantial increase in the standing army in a few years, and especially of the artillery branch, to which will fall the work of manning and caring for the fortresses.

Another Blow at the "Spoils System."

On September 1 the ten thousand employees of the war department were placed under the civil service rules, in accordance with President Cleveland's sweeping order of last May. Only two persons in Secretary Lamont's office, his confidential clerk and the assistant secretary, remain outside the classified service.

Charged With Violating the Neutrality Laws.



GEN. ROLOFF.

Carlos Roloff, major general in the Cuban army and secretary of war of the provincial government of Cuba, was arrested in New York, Sept. 17, on complaint of the Spanish consul, on a charge of violating the neutrality laws. He is accused of aiding the *Laurada* filibustering expedition which left New York on the night of May 9 last, and successfully landed a large cargo of arms and a band of revolutionists on the coast of Cuba. Gen. Roloff was born in Poland and came to the United States when thirteen years old from Cuba, where he had

lived nearly all his childhood. He served in the civil war on the Confederate side and in the Cuban revolution from 1868 to 1878.

Pension Commissioner's Report.

During the year ending June 30, 1896, the U. S. government granted 49,374 new pensions and restored 3873 pensioners who had been previously dropped, making a total of 44,247. The losses for various reasons amounted to 44,093; so that the whole number of pensioners on the roll June 30 was 970,678, whose pensions foot up to 138,214,000 annually. Commissioner Lochren thinks that this number of pensioners (the largest in our history) will steadily decrease from this on, unless Congress should enact still more liberal provisions.

Mexican Border Bandits.

A large number of armed bandits have been terrorizing the border country of Mexico and New Mexico. Recently they made an attack on the Mexican custom house at Las Polemas. Mexican troops and U. S. cavalry who have been chasing them have captured several.

The Venezuela Controversy Unsettled.

Recent developments show that the Venezuela controversy is by no means settled. Lord Salisbury still holds to his original ground that the so-called "settled districts," or, in other words, the lands seized by the British, shall not go before a tribunal of arbitration even if they belonged to Venezuela when seized. Mr. Olney rejoins by asking how much time is required in order to give such occupancy a valid title of ownership. It is held that unless Lord Salisbury yields this point there can be no arbitration between the two countries.

Will Canada Retaliate?

On the border of Canada considerable feeling has arisen on account of the United States law against bringing in alien laborers under contract. Recently a large employer of labor in Canada took a gang of men to work in the lumber camps of Michigan. They were not allowed to remain there, and were all sent back to Canada. The Canadian owner of the timber limit in question at once decided to abandon work on it for the present. Canada now threatens to pass an alien labor law unless the U. S. alien labor law is abrogated.

Five hundred houses were destroyed by fire recently at Ontonagon, Mich.

The death of ex-U. S. Senator Henry B. Payne, of Ohio, occurred recently.

On account of a serious strike in Leadville, Col., militia have been guarding the town.

Over 40,000,000 franked envelopes had been ordered up to Sept. 1, for political uses in this campaign.

A shaft has been unveiled on the battlefield of Antietam to the memory of the Philadelphia brigade men.

September 7 was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Smithsonian institution in Washington, D. C.

The U. S. government has decided to erect fortifications at Fort Montgomery, Rouse's Point, on Lake Champlain.

The anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie was celebrated at Cleveland Sept. 10. The statue of Commodore Perry was decorated with flowers.

The sub committee of the Greater New York commission has completed the charter for the consolidated city and will report it about October 15.

The 120th anniversary of the battle of Harlem Heights (now New York city) was celebrated September 16. British were defeated by Continental troops.

Pres. Dole and his friends of Hawaii say that they do not want a U. S. protectorate, as has been reported. They are unchangeably in favor of annexation.

Cardinal Sotoli is preparing to return to Rome on the arrival of his successor, Archbishop Martinelli, the date of whose arrival in this country is uncertain.

A meeting was held recently at Terre Haute, Ind., whose object was to bring about a closer union of the engineers, firemen, and other railroad brotherhoods.

The Grand Army of the Republic met this year in St. Paul, Minn. In the parade were 25,000 veterans, Major Thaddeus S. Clarkson, of Nebraska, was chosen commander-in-chief.

The new cruiser *Brooklyn* made 21.92 knots an hour on her trial trip. The government allows the contractors a bonus of \$50,000 for each quarter knot above twenty knots, so that she earns them \$350,000.

The report of the Erie Railroad Company shows that within the past few months has been formed a solvent and well-equipped system of 2,165 miles of railroad, with a main line extending from Jersey City to Chicago.

Workmen putting in a telephone at Springfield, Mo., accidentally made a connection with the fire alarm wires, and when they tested the instrument the department was called out and the firemen were unable to tell what the trouble was.

Secretary Olney will have the state department thoroughly investigate the reported murder of Charles Govin by Spanish soldiers in Cuba. Consul-General Lee has been instructed to insist on a complete and early report on the case from the Spanish officials.

The Audubon sugar school in New Orleans has been closed, because the revolution in Cuba has cut off all students from that island. This school had obtained a reputation throughout the West Indies and Europe as the best school on this continent for teaching sugar growing and manufacture.

Judge Thomas, assistant attorney general for the post office department, has decided that "It is unlawful to send an ordinary letter by express or otherwise outside of the mails unless it be enclosed in a government stamped envelop. It is also unlawful to enclose a letter in an express package unless it pertains wholly to the contents of the package."

Questions and Answers.

Explain briefly the money question. What are the honest beliefs of those that favor a gold standard and those that favor free silver?

L. E. C.

We would be rash indeed to attempt to give in a brief space all the features of the money question. Only the main points can be given. The free silver men want to have silver coined by the government at the ratio of sixteen ounces of silver to one of gold with no limit as to quantity. They want to have a law passed giving those owning silver the privilege of taking it to the government mints to be coined for them into silver money; they also ask that this silver coin shall have all the debt-paying power that gold has to-day. The gold standard, they hold, is unjust to borrowers as gold has increased in value, making it very hard for debtors to pay their debts. The great fall in the price of silver, they claim, has been due to the demonetization in 1873, and its remonetization would restore its price. The appreciation of gold, on the other hand, has caused prices to fall, so that the farmer now gets much less than formerly for his products. There is not money enough now for the business of the country; coin plenty of silver money, they contend, and it will not be possible for speculators to control the money market, business will become brisk, and labor will be employed.

The gold men assert that as the yellow metal is the standard of the chief commercial nations of the world, it must necessarily be ours; that the free coinage of silver will result in the driving of all our \$500,000,000 in gold money out of circulation, and that instead of expanding the currency, free coinage of silver will cause a contraction; that in that case our money will sink to the value of the silver in the silver dollar (now about 53 cents), causing immense loss to those working on salaries, and also to holders of pensions, savings accounts, insurance policies, building and loan stock, etc., that, this instead of helping business, would cause it untold injury, in fact, would bring on a great panic; that the fall in prices has been due to other causes, such as over-production, labor saving machinery, decreased cost of transportation, etc., and not to the demonetization of silver; that this is shown by the fact that all things have not fallen in equal proportion; that poor and backward countries have a silver standard, and there the cost of living is high and wages are low.

1. Do banks issue paper money? If so, under what conditions, and how long have they done so? Does the government issue paper money?

2. Has there ever been free coinage of silver 16 to 1, in this country? In any foreign country?

W.

1. A national bank is authorized to begin the business of banking upon making the deposit of U. S. registered bonds with the treasurer of the U. S., as required by law. Although these bonds are held by the treasurer, the interest is collected by the bank, whose property the bonds continue to be. This deposit of bonds entitles the bank to receive from the comptroller of the currency notes to the value of 90 per cent. of the market value of the bonds deposited, but not exceeding 90 per cent. of the par value. When signed by the proper officers of the bank, the notes become its promises to pay on demand, and can then be issued for circulation. The bank issues them by paying them out as currency in cashing checks, etc., and they are received on a par with coin or treasury notes and certificates. The national bank law was passed in February, 1863.

Besides these national bank notes, the government issues gold certificates (payable in gold), silver certificates (payable in silver), and treasury notes (payable in coin). The government is pledged to maintain all of these on a par with gold.

2. By the mint act of 1834, which, except as regards silver dollars, is still in force, every owner of gold bullion and of silver bullion was permitted to take it to the mint in unlimited quantities and have it coined, free of expense, except for refining and for the alloy used, into silver dollars and gold eagles and fractions of an eagle, at the rate of sixteen times as many dollars for a given weight of gold as for an equal weight of silver. In the gold dollar were 23.22 grains of pure gold and in the silver dollar 371½ grains of pure silver; the weight of the coins with alloy was 25.8 and 412½ grains respectively. This was free coinage. Up to 1853, silver on this ratio, was worth a little more than gold. Our small coins were therefore bought up and exported to Europe. Congress purposely made them light weight. In 1873 the silver dollar was dropped from the list of coins.

Various coinage ratios have been adopted in different countries at different times (15 to 1, 15½ to 1, 16 to 1, etc.), according to the commercial value of the metals. Their commercial ratio at present is about 31 to 1.

1. Where are the U. S. military posts? and how often do the soldiers drill? 2. How much does each Indian receive from the U. S.?

D. S.

1. The regular army of the U. S. is divided into several departments each of which usually covers several states. These are known as the departments of the East, of the Missouri, of California, of Dakota, of Texas, of the Platte, of the Colorado, and of the Columbia. The headquarters of the commanding generals are at Governor's island, N. Y., Chicago, St. Paul, Denver, Vancouver barracks, Wash., San Francisco, San Antonio, Tex., and

Omaha. The soldiers are distributed throughout this region, a company here and a company there. The regiments are not all together as in time of war. The soldiers usually drill every day. 2. The total Indian population of the U. S. in 1890, civilized and uncivilized, was 249,273. Of these 133,382 were on reservations. The appropriation for Indians in 1895 was \$9,939,754. This was not parceled out among the Indians so much for each person, but was spent for food, schools, etc., as necessities required.

What relation was Robert E. Lee to "Light Horse Harry"?

J. R. W.

Robert E. Lee was the son of Gen. Henry Lee, otherwise known as "Light Horse Harry."

Editor of OUR TIMES: In the September issue of OUR TIMES I note the following question: How often since the adoption of the constitution has the election of president devolved upon the house? Your answer is, "The only time the house ever elected a president was in 1803. I beg to call your attention to the election of John Quincy Adams in 1824. No candidate at the election of 1824 receiving a majority of electors it devolved upon the house to elect a president."

C. A. WHITE.

1. Has Australia yet formed itself into a confederacy. 2. Has Emin Pasha died?

C. P. L.

1. Efforts have been made to form an Australian confederacy, but they have not yet been successful. 2. Emin Pasha was killed in a battle with Arabs near Nyangwe, on the Lualaba river in latitude 40 south, in 1892.

I understand there is to be no leap year in 1900, please explain why and when this occurred before.

R. W.

According to the Gregorian rule for determining leap year, every year of which the number is divisible by four without a remainder is a leap year, except the centesimal years, which are only leap years when divisible by four after suppressing the two zeros. Thus 1600 was a leap year; 1700 and 1800 were common years; 1900 will be a common year, 2000 a leap year, and so on. (For an explanation of why this is so, see some good cyclopedia under "calendar;" the subject is too extensive to be treated here.)

Please give me a description of the statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

The statue is on Bedloe (now known as Liberty) island, which is situated in New York bay, near the south end of Manhattan island. It is a bronze draped female figure holding a book in the left arm and in the upward extended right hand bearing the torch of Liberty, which is now supplied with a powerful electric light. The statue faces the harbor entrance (or the Narrows). It is about 150 feet high; as it stands on the pedestal the top of the torch is 329 feet above the water of the bay. The base consists of a truncated pyramid on which is erected a massive square stone pedestal that contracts in size gradually from the bottom up. The statue was put up in 1886. It was made by M. Bartholdi, a French artist, and was a gift of the French people to the United States.

1. Who are the five most popular living American authors? 2. Name the five greatest educators the world has produced

The five whose works are worth reading that circulate most extensively (this is only our opinion) are Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), W. E. Howells, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, James Whitcomb Riley, and Richard Harding Davis. 2. The five educators (simply our opinion) are Socrates, Luther, Comenius, Pestalozzi, Herbart (or Froebel).

Who are the rulers of the different European countries? M. I. P.

Austria-Hungary, Emperor Francis Joseph; Belgium, King Leopold II; Bulgaria, Prince Ferdinand; Denmark, King Christian IX.; France, President Francois Felix Faure;—German Empire, William II., king of Prussia and emperor of Germany; Bavaria, King Otto; Saxony, King Albert; Wurtemberg, King William II.;—Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Victoria; Greece, King George I.; Italy, King Humbert; Monaco, Prince Albert; Montenegro, Prince Nicholas; Netherlands (Holland), Queen Wilhelmina (a minor); Portugal, King Carlos I. (Charles); Roumania, King Charles; Russia, Emperor Nicholas II.; Serbia, King Alexander I.; Spain, King Alphonso XIII. (a minor); Sweden and Norway, King Oscar II.; Switzerland, President Joseph Zemp; Turkey, Abdul Hamid II.

What cities bear the following nicknames: (1) City of Spindles. (2) Flour City. (3) Mound City. (4) Smoky City. (5) Falls City. (6) Gate City. (7) Empire City. (8) City of Violated Treaty. (9) City of Palaces. (10) City of Victory. (11) City of Masts. (12) City of the Violet Crown. (13) Auld Reekie. (14) Bride of the Sea.

1. Lowell. 2. Rochester. 3. St. Louis. 4. Pittsburg. 5. Minneapolis. 6. San Francisco. 7. New York. 8. Limerick. 9. Calcutta. 10. Cairo. 11. London. 12. Athens. 13. Edinburgh. 14. Venice.

Will you give in OUR TIMES the names of the greatest United States senators who have lived since the foundation of the government. J. L. K.

Here are the names of some of the greatest senators: Daniel Webster, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Jefferson Davis, George H. Pendleton, John Sherman, Charles Sumner, Benjamin Harrison, Martin Van Buren, John Forsyth, John C. Calhoun,

Henry Clay, Edward Everett, Wm. M. Evarts, Wm. H. Seward, Lewis Cass, Simon Cameron, James Buchanan, Wm. L. Dayton, Thos. H. Benton, John C. Fremont, Robert Y. Hayne. Many of our greatest men were never members of the senate. It would be a good exercise to look up the history of these men to see just what made them prominent.

What is the origin of the name "Uncle Sam" as applying to the United States?

R. S. R.

The former name originated during the war of 1812. Elbert Anderson, a contractor, who furnished supplies to the government visited Troy, N. Y., where he purchased a large quantity of provisions. The inspectors of these articles were Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson, the latter being called familiarly Uncle Sam Wilson. The casks were marked E. A.—U. S. A. faceious man employed by them when asked the meaning of the mark said that he did not know unless it meant Elbert Anderson and "Uncle Sam." The joke spread, for it was recognized as a good one, and "Uncle Sam" soon became general as a nickname for the United States government.

Geographical and Other Notes.

The Proposed Chignecto Ship Canal.

The project of building a ship railroad across the Chignecto isthmus between Northumberland straits and Chignecto bay, has been revived. About \$3,000,000 have already been spent, and half that sum, in addition, will be required to finish it. The subsidy promised by the Dominion parliament some years ago lapsed because the terms were not complied with. Capitalists are now trying to have it renewed.

The idea on which this enterprise is founded is that of lifting by machinery a ship out of the water, placing it on a cradle, transporting it by rail across the portion of land to be traversed, and then lowering it into the sea. If this could be done successfully and at a reasonable cost there might be a substitution of ship railways for canals in many parts of the world where the conditions are favorable to their construction. The general plan is an old one, there having also been much talk of building a ship railway between Georgian bay and Lake Ontario. The most ambitious project of the sort, so far as length is concerned, was the suggested construction of such a road across the lower part of France between the Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay.

It is obvious that if the ship can be safely lifted to the track and carried ten miles, it can be as safely carried 100. The isthmus between Northumberland straits and Chignecto bay, which is at the head of the Bay of Fundy, is only about seventeen miles wide, and the difference in level between the two ends is only about forty-seven feet, with no engineering obstacles of importance on the route. It is said that all but three miles were graded and all the rails delivered more than half a dozen years ago. It was proposed to make the parallel tracks of standard gauge, so that two powerful locomotives could be used to pull the ship across. The total width of the tracks would be thirty feet, the cradle that would project over them being forty feet wide.

The hydraulic lift designed to raise a vessel weighing 2,000 tons is fitted with a large number of rams, of twenty-five-inch diameter, and it is said that they will lift a vessel to the height of forty feet in twenty minutes. The cradles are made of steel girders, and under a ship of 2,000 tons there would be 192 solid wheels, of three feet diameter, formed in sections, each having sixty four wheels.

Of course there are two different questions involved in this project, both of which will be considered by the Dominion government, to which the appeal is now made. One of them concerns the practicability of raising, transporting, and lowering vessels in the way proposed, without doing them injury. The other is the purely financial consideration of whether the tolls exacted for taking vessels in this way between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy would pay the interest on the capital and running expenses.

A Vessel that Travels Under Water.

One of the most wonderful vessels ever invented is about ready for trial in Chesapeake bay. It is a submarine torpedo boat, whose work will be to explode torpedoes under an enemy's vessels during war. This queer craft looks like a great Whitehead torpedo on whose back has been placed a hood in the shape of an inverted boat. Forward of this hood a vertical fin extends to the bow, and above is the smokestack. The boat can travel in three ways—light, level, and completely submerged. When light she displaces 116 tons of water, with the hood and hull just peeping above the surface; when level with the water only the smokestack and the upper part of the hood are seen and the displacement is 135 tons; when completely submerged it is 136 tons. The motive power consists of a boiler heated by petroleum; three triple expansion engines, each turning a screw; three dynamos mounted on the screw shafts, and the accumulators. On the surface the boat will make about fifteen knots an hour; partially sub-

merged, fourteen knots, and totally submerged eight or nine knots.

When in action nothing will be seen of the ship. She is supposed to pick out a vessel for attack, dive below, and make for her: occasionally, perhaps, coming to the surface just long enough to permit the commander to make sure of his course. When within a few feet of the enemy she is to let go several hundred pounds of the highest explosive under the bottom of the vessel, back away, and run until a safe distance has been reached when she will again come to the surface.

When the vessel is about to go under the water the smoke-stack is housed and the top covered. Then water is let into certain compartments which sinks her to the required depth (it may be as far as sixty feet beneath the surface); while below her machinery is run by the electric apparatus. When it is necessary to rise the water ballast is forced out by means of pumps or compressed air. For the twelve men who have to work the boat air is stored in reservoirs, and should it by chance run low while the vessel is submerged a fresh supply can be secured by a pump sucking in the air by means of an India rubber tube terminating in a flask floating on the surface of the water.

A Flying Bicycle.

Almost every attachment has been devised for a bicycle, but Oscar Freymann, a Russian in New York, has the most original of all. He proposes to add wings to the road flyer and make it a flyer indeed.

Freymann's plan is to start from the ordinary ground level. The bicycle is ridden along for a short distance, and when a certain degree of speed is attained the air pressure opens the wings and the machine begins to rise from the earth, the wing mechanism, being worked also by the bicycle pedals. The hands are left free to manipulate two levers, one which regulates the tilt of the wings and another which operates a tail or rudder, fixed in a vertical plane behind.



The plans for Freymann's machine provide for eight wings, four on each side. They are to be concave on one side and convex on the other. They come to a point where they join the body of the machine, and at the extremity are broad and rounded. They are to be of silk, stretched on a frame of light steel or of willow, and stoutly braced on the convex side to prevent them from breaking or being turned inside out by the pressure of the air. The motion of the wings is based upon that of an eagle's. The tips of the wings, all of which work together, describe an ellipse. As they go forward they move upward slightly, at an angle supposed to give just enough sustaining power to keep the machine going ahead on a level. As the wings drop back they close together somewhat, and then they spread open to the full again as they rise on the next round.

Mineral Products of the United States.

In 1895, 9,500,000 tons of pig iron was produced in the United States, the largest quantity in the history of the country. Of silver there were 47,000,000 troy ounces mined in 1895, the smallest output since 1888, and of the least aggregate value since 1889. Gold, on the contrary, was produced in greater quantity than in any previous year of the decade. The production was 2,273,629 ounces, valued at \$47,000,000. In the decade the production of copper has more than doubled, that of lead has increased signally; while that of aluminum has advanced from 3,000 lbs. in 1886 to 920,000 lbs. in 1895, the increase the last year being 370,000 lbs. Last year was the greatest year of the ten for bituminous and anthracite coal, the production of the latter being nearly 52,000,000, and of the former a little over 135,000,000 tons; also for petroleum, excepting 1892 only; also for asbestos. The aggregate value of the metallic production was \$270,454,000, and of the non-metallic \$340,341,000, the grand total being \$160,000,000 greater than ten years ago, or an increase of about one-third.

How a Real Waterspout Looks.

The passengers and crew of the steamship *Neustria*, which left Marseilles recently for New York, had a chance to see a

waterspout, while in the Gulf stream, during a heavy thunder storm. It was first seen about two miles away and passed within 600 feet of the ship. The captain observed that it was about ninety feet through at the base, and that its top was in the clouds, at which point it was about twelve feet in diameter. The surface of the sea at its base was lashed into foam, and for fifty yards around the edge of the base there was a big depression. The ocean beyond this depressed area was not affected. As it passed the *Neustria*, it made a sound like escaping steam, which was heard above the storm by every one on board. The electricity from the clouds ran down the sides of the huge column of water into the sea. When astern of the ship the waterspout changed its shape. The upper part spread out like an umbrella, a hundred yards in diameter, and the hissing sound increased. It grew gradually shorter and thicker, until when about a mile from the ship it burst, the water falling back into the sea with a crash that was heard above the thunder. The misty, umbrella-like top floated up to the clouds.

Preparing for the Meteoric Shower.

Preparations are already being made by astronomers for the next great shower of November meteors. These showers are believed to be due to the crossing of the earth's path of a stream of minute bodies—probably pebbles not exceeding an ounce or two in weight, and spaced a mile or two apart in the densest portion of the swarm—which complete a revolution in their orbit in about thirty-three and one fourth years. The meteors cross the earth's orbit at the point reached by our planet on the 12th or 13th of November, being, therefore, next due at the place where the orbits intersect in November, 1899, or November of 1900. As the stream is immensely long, the earth, it is thought, will pass through the dense part of it on both years, and may encounter scattered members of the group on one or two years preceding and following those named. The thickness of the stream seems to be about 100,000 miles, but the earth, passing obliquely through it, is exposed to the meteoric downpour for about four or five hours.

Results of Nansen's Arctic Expedition.

The scientific results of Nansen's arctic expedition are very great. He showed that the arctic ocean was not shallow, as was supposed. He found water there 12,500 feet deep. One member of the party explored the western part of Franz Josef land and made accurate maps of the territory. He discovered new regions, especially a large tract of land beyond the heretofore known limits of the island, with a magnificent headland covered with ice from foot to summit, and a huge rampart of ice, that could not be passed over, at its base. Here the party met with a series of furious gales, fogs, and driving snow storms. Frequently they barely escaped being smashed by the ice. Another lofty headland was discovered up Cambridge bay. A number of valuable photographs were taken, picturing the terrible arctic nature of the ice-capped country.

Canadians Fear Rinderpest.

There is danger of the introduction into Canada of the much-dreaded rinderpest. For the convenience of the tanning industry, large quantities of hides from South Africa (where the disease is prevalent), purchased cheaply in London, are now being imported into the Dominion, and the government is being appealed to to have all the imported hides disinfected or their importation prohibited. When the disease last visited England over 73,000 cattle were attacked by it and 41,000 died. Leading experts in Canada are sounding the alarm.

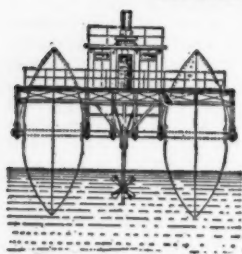
An Ancient Lake Bed.

The maps made by the Ptolemies, kings of Egypt, contained a lake to the west of the Nile, and the name given was Moeris. As there was no lake to the southeast of Cairo the matter remained a puzzle until an American named Capt. Whitehouse discovered a depression in this locality 45 by 25 miles; this he bought of the Egyptian government for \$16,000. The eastern edge of this depression is 10 miles from the Nile and Mr. Whitehouse's plan is to have a canal cut, and when the Nile overflows to fill it with water. This depression, called the Raiyan, thus filled with water will be a fertile region, and, it is estimated, will produce an increase of crops worth seventy million annually.

Texas Timber for South Africa.

Within the past year eastern Texas has developed an important timber trade with South Africa. This has been made possible through the improvements to the navigation to the Sabine pass, the outlet to Sabine lake, by the U. S. government. The timber belt of Texas is a region of about 30,000 square miles. The timber is transported partly by water, being floated down the streams, and partly by rail. Already several railway lines penetrate the timber belt, and connecting with these lines are many private tramways that lead to the saw mills. It is believed that the Texas forest belt will outlast the forests of Maine and even of Michigan. Besides yellow pine there is an abundance of oak and ash.

The French Disk Steamship.



DISK STEAMSHIP.
(End View.)

The new French disk-steamship has just been launched. There are eight disks, four on each side. The diagrammatic end view will show how the deck is supported by the axiles of the wheels. When the boat moves forward by the force of the propeller these disks revolve also. It is claimed that it will require only one twenty-seventh of the power used for propelling an ordinary boat to drive this one. It is also said that it will be impossible to sink it. If one, two or even more of the wheels were perforated by a collision, the vessel would only sink a few feet. As soon as the water has entered to a certain height the wheel turns up with the orifice at the top.

Discoveries in Celebes.

Travelers have recently explored the southeast arm of the island of Celebes in the Moluccas, and have discovered there two large lakes, Matanna and Towuti, at a height of 400 and 350 meters respectively above sea level. In the former a sounding of 480 meters was made without finding bottom. Remains of a prehistoric village built on piles, but now submerged, were discovered, the bronze and pottery found being very like that obtained in similar villages in Europe.

Questions for Review.

Among the leading events that should be considered by the pupils at present are the British-Egyptian expedition, the crisis in Turkey, the Cuban rebellion and its effects on Spain, the visit of Li Hung Chang, and the presidential campaign and matters connected with it. What do the British expect to gain by the expedition up the Nile? What was the cause of the crisis in Turkey? What is the strength and the position of the Spanish and Cuban armies respectively? Give an idea of the present condition of affairs in Spain? Who is Li Hung Chang? What will probably be the effect of his visit here? How many presidential tickets are in the field and what are they? What has caused the great split in political parties this year? Give the principal arguments of the silver and the gold men respectively. What great Russian statesman died lately? What Indian reservation will be opened for settlement soon? What was the result of the revolution in Ecuador?

Birthdays of Celebrated People.

(Let the pupils look up something in books of reference about each of the following to be used as the basis of talks on their birthdays.)

George Bancroft, Oct. 3, 1800.	Noah Webster, Oct. 16, 1758.
R. B. Hayes, Oct. 4, 1822.	Helen Hunt Jackson, Oct. 18, 1831.
Jonathan Edwards, Oct. 5, 1703.	S. T. Coleridge, Oct. 21, 1772.
E. C. Stedman, Oct. 8, 1833.	T. B. Macaulay, Oct. 25, 1800.
Guiseppi Verdi, Oct. 9, 1814.	Sir Moses Montefiore, Oct. 26, 1784.
Cervantes, Oct. 9, 1547.	John Keats, Oct. 29, 1795.
Hugh Miller, Oct. 10, 1802.	John Adams, Oct. 30, 1735.
G. W. Cable, Oct. 12, 1844.	
William Penn, Oct. 14, 1644.	

The following proper names that are likely to be mispronounced appear in this issue of OUR TIMES.

Abdul Hamid (äb' dool hä-méd'); Chignecto (shig-nek' tō); Corea (ko-rē'a); Cambios Nuevos (kam bē' os nwā'-vos); Cour-trai (kōör-trä'; e as in move); Diaz (dē-äth); DIsraeli (diz rä' li); Ecole Normale (ä-kōl' nor-mäl'); Foudroyant (food roy-ong'); Gomez (go' meth); Khartoum (kär-toom'); Hawaii (hä-wi' ē); Kurds (kōörds); Kaulani (ki öō lan' ē); Laurada (low rä'-dä); Langbein (läng' bin); Las Polemas (läs pol ä' mas); Li (lè) Hung Chang; Maceo (mä-thä' o); Mæris (mæ'ris); Neustria (nūs' tri ä); Puerto Principe (pwär' to prën'-thä pä); Rueda (ro ä' thä); Seville (sä-vél'); Suakin (swä' kin); Seyyid Khalid (say' ed kä' led); Valladolid (val-la-do-lid').

OUR TIMES

Is a journal of Current Events for the Schoolroom and Home. It is published monthly, 10 numbers a year, from September to June. Price, 30c. a year in advance. Clubs of two or over, 50c. each. Subscriptions taken for full year only, but may begin with any issue.

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The Supplement

this month tells of important things. We trust every subscriber will read it with great care. In it will be found special reasons for enlarging your interest in OUR TIMES. The day we write this we receive a fine club of 155 subscribers from a New York state town, another of thirty-six from Nebraska, another of seventeen from New Jersey, and so on. In the supplement is given a cut of perhaps the most attractive premium we have presented,

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which is sent to every subscriber for 10 cents extra, or 40 cents. This game is cheap at 25 cents. Many have been sold at 35 cents. We want to send it to 25,000 subscribers this year. This splendid game will be the delight of thousands of households this winter.

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